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Ministries Issue Statement on CIS Peacekeeping Role

LD2903143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—"Thanks to the presence in 'trouble spots' of Russian peacemaking forces, far more numerous civilian casualties have been prevented." Thus reads a joint statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation [RF] with which Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Information and Press Department of the RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acquainted journalists at today's briefing.

"The document states that claims have been made recently in remarks by certain politicians and foreign media publications about the 'ambiguousness' of Russia's peacemaking mission on the territories of several countries within the CIS." Furthermore, "not only have facts been arbitrarily interpreted but also freely or unintentionally distorted."

As a result, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation stated that "Russia's actions are aimed only at halting armed clashes in a number of newly independent states, at stabilizing the situation there, and at creating the conditions for long-term and stable settlements." Over the past ten months alone, Russia has spent about 26 billion rubles [R] on peacemaking. There are over 15,000 Russian servicemen in 'trouble spots' on the territory of the CIS states.

Peacemaking in Commonwealth countries is not "something Russia does on its own initiative," the document stresses. In all cases without exception, Russia's actions have been undertaken at the request and with the consent of the states concerned and of the sides involved in the conflicts. This is also fully in line with the provisions of the UN Charter, which not only allows for, but also welcomes the possibility of settling the questions of maintaining peace on the basis of agreements between the interested states. Russia has consistently advocated the broadest participation of the UN and the CSCE in settling the conflicts in CIS countries, the statement says.

"Firmly pursuing the course towards ensuring peace and stability around its borders and towards abiding by its commitments under agreements with the countries concerned within the framework of the CIS, Russia is not setting its efforts against anyone. We are not demanding a special place or an exceptional role, but neither are we evading our responsibility for the situation in this key region for Russia," says the joint statement from Russia's foreign and defense ministries.

Moscow Supports CIS Economic Cooperation Body

MK2903101094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Konstantin Smirnov report: "Cooperation Ministry Consolidates its Positions. Ministry Gets Government Support"]

[Text] Officially circulated yesterday was a Russian Federation Government decree, "Questions of the Russian Federation Ministry on Cooperation with Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States." The Ministry on Cooperation with the CIS Member States has received a stable material base in the shape of personnel, financial support, and buildings. Besides, until provisions on the Ministry of Cooperation with the CIS Member States have been approved, the government decree will provide the legal basis for the ministry's operation.

The Russian Federation State Committee on Economic Cooperation with Member States of the Commonwealth (Goskomsotrudnichestvo) was formed in late 1991. One of the committee's prerogatives, as it was steadily gaining in influence, was defending Russia's interests in matters of cooperation with former Union republics. As of last fall, the committee took up the problems of restoring Russia's trade and economic links with countries of the former Council for Mutual Economic Assistance for which purpose a special directorate was created inside its apparatus. There was a valid reason for it: before the CMEA's dissolution, the share of its participants in Russia's foreign trade was 50 percent, and as little as 20 percent in 1993.

In forming an economic union of CIS countries (whose founding documents were signed in Moscow on 24 September 1993), the Russian Committee on Economic Cooperation with Member States of the Commonwealth was also virtually the only coordination-consultative and expert organ having what in fact were intergovernmental prerogatives because similar government structures were not in place yet in the other CIS member countries. Besides, one should take account of the fact that the currently functioning Commonwealth organizational structure, which includes councils of the heads of states and governments, a coordination-consultative committee, and an executive secretariat, has no bodies so far that regularly check up on the observance of decisions made by the executive organs of the economic union. The question of setting up an Interstate Economic Council is only to be considered at the upcoming summit in late April.

The committee's broader functions increased its status, with the result that it was turned into a ministry early in 1994. At the same time, its activities have not undergone appreciable changes: the ministry remains a test ground (proceeding from the priority of Russian interests) for various projects of development of economic integration with a special stress on the credit and finance sphere.

Dual Citizenship for Russians in Baltics Sought

WS2903184894 Tallinn BNS in English 1646 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, Mar 29, BNS—Russia's official policy with regard to ethnic Russians residing in Latvia and Estonia will target the restoration of their status as citizens, states the citizenship commission under the Russian president in the proposals for a concept of Russia's policy toward compatriots abroad it approved Tuesday [29 March].

"Russia adheres to the principle of dual citizenship, which in recent years has become a reality," the commission's proposals read. "To have it legally fixed, relevant bilateral agreements must be concluded."

The commission claims that "dual citizenship doesn't preclude the formation of new states or violate their sovereignty," and emphasizes that the proposed measures "are not aimed at interference in the domestic affairs" of the Baltic states. The Baltic states' legislation, however, does not provide for dual citizenship.

According to the commission's proposals, Russia must also strive for the preservation of Russian as "the language of inter-ethnic communication" in the entire information space of the former Soviet Union.

The commission said its proposals are due to the fact that "hundreds of thousands of people in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have been deprived of citizenship, which causes infringement of their right to vote and the right to ownership, and even puts in question their right to live in those countries." The commission expressed concern that "disregard of human rights may give rise to social and political conflicts."

"In recognizing the newly independent states formed on the basis of former Soviet republics, Russia expected the legislation of those countries to meet international legal standards," the commission stated.

The Baltic states' policies stem from a different principle. Having restored their independence after the 50-year occupation, Latvia and Estonia reinstituted also the principle of hereditary citizenship. Lithuania, whose territory underwent considerable changes in the course of World War II, chose the so-called zero option of citizenship, under which all persons residing in the country are eligible for its citizenship.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Baltic Issues

WS3003094794 Tallinn BNS in English 1756 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Moscow, Mar 29, BNS—The Baltic states didn't join the Soviet Union in 1940 of their own free will, but it cannot be regarded as annexation, either, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated in an interview to BNS today.

"Despite everything, Russia condemns the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and the Stalinist oppression," Kozyrev said in the interview.

The Russian foreign minister met today with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe High Commissioner for National Minorities Max van der Stoel to discuss the problems of ethnic minorities in Estonia and Latvia.

Stoel voiced the opinion that there are many problems in the framework of the ethnic issue which are waiting to be solved. "On the one hand, the preservation of those states' national character needs to be safeguarded; on the other, the future of the Russians living there must be secured on an equal footing," the CSCE high commissioner maintained.

Speaking about the alleged human rights violations in Estonia and Latvia, Stoel admitted that "neither torturing nor deportation of members of ethnic minorities occurs there."

Yet, he said, both countries have serious problems pertaining to the legal status of the Russian-speaking population. "I drafted numerous recommendations to remedy the matter and I hope they will be accepted," Stoel said.

Kozyrev said Russia expects the Baltic Sea countries to establish the post of a regional national minorities commissioner.

The Russian foreign minister said that the troop withdrawal negotiations with Estonia and Latvia have reached the final stage. All issues, including that of social protection for Russian military pensioners, have been resolved, he claimed. "The package of agreements will be signed after discussion in the Estonian and the Latvian parliaments and approval by those countries' heads of state," was Kozyrev's opinion.

Kozyrev emphasized that Russia managed to coordinate the troop withdrawal with Lithuania and Latvia "in a civilized manner, on a contractual basis." The signing of a similar agreement with Estonia now depends on that Baltic nation, he said. In Kozyrev's view, this will help "Russia's friends in the West" to focus attention on the protection of human rights in Estonia and Latvia.

Russia withdrew its troops from Lithuania by September 1993. To date, also a troop pullout agreement with Latvia has been initialed. The problem of the status of Russian military pensioners remains the stumbling-block at the Estonian-Russian talks.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Mar

LD3003072194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0626 GMT 30 Mar 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the continuing rise in the cost of living in Russia.

New tariffs for electric power for public utility needs will double in April, the newspaper points out, recalling at the same time that the average tariffs for electric power in Russia are lower than the world ones by a factor of three to four while the prices of metal, pipes, power equipment and spares "have already attained the world level".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI also reports the signing of 20 documents on Russia-Kazakhstan cooperation during Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to moscow, the long-awaited agreement on Baykonur cosmodrome, in particular.

TRUD and other newspapers also dwell on the baikonur topic. TRUD carries an article headlined "Baykonur ceases to be an 'apple of discord', Russia leases the cosmodrome for 20 years".

ROSSIYA newspaper carries an interview with Anatoliy Sliva, chairman of the State Duma committee on local self-government matters.

"Local self-government in Russia is in a unique position now: the rights of local power bodies have been formulated and stipulated in the constitution at the level of the highest world standards, whereas the current legislation, decrees, various decisions, and subordinate legislation obviously contradict the constitution," Sliva said.

ROSSIYA runs an interview with Russian Liberal-Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy who does not rule out, in particular, the emergence of some new self-proclaimed state-of-emergency committee in the country. "Something is certain to happen in a period from April to November—either an emergency committee or developments similar to the October of 1993 or some other version of events", he maintains.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carries an article dedicated to the birth anniversary of legendary aircraft designer Sergey Ilyushin.

"Even in the present-day difficult economic situation, Russia has got to find strength and wisdom to maintain the research and production potential which in future will enable it to remain among the world's leading aircraft makers", the newspaper emphasises.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on a rising suicide rate in Russia:

"This always happens during election campaigns: a great number of people from among the socially most vulnerable section of the population—tramps, unemployed, students and pensioners—commit suicides upon becoming convinced of the unrealistic nature of political parties' election-campaign promises".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the problems of the Crimea:

"Following the elections to the Crimean parliament and an opinion poll, president Yuriy Meshkov's slogan 'my goal is to secure the reunification of the Crimea with Russia', due to which he scored an electoral win, "acquires increasingly distinct contours".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Russian State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin.

"We should not allow a recurrence of the October 4, 1993, events which signified our overall defeat", Rybkin stated, voicing confidence in the success of reforms being effected in the country.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reprints an interview of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk with the newspaper KRYMSKIE VESTI (Crimean News) under a headline quoting his as saying: "I stand on this: Ukraine should be side-by-side with Russia, not under Russia."

PRAVDA runs an interview with writer Yuriy Vlasov, a member of the State Duma.

"It would be the greatest sin if all upright people fail to rely on the sense of patriotism in resisting the tough struggle, a struggle of expermination [as received], which is now under way in Russia and against Russia", the newspaper quotes Vlasov as saying.

Yeltsin Meets With U.S. Commerce Secretary Brown

LD3003111694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—"We have to meet, discuss and solve all the problems which can accumulate in bilateral relations", President Boris Yeltsin said on Wednesday before meeting US Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown.

The Russian leader noted that he was aware of the essence of the talks which Brown had held with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The meeting is attended by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, presidential aide Dmitriy Ryurikov and US Ambassador in Moscow Thomas Pickering.

Calls for 'Real Cooperation' With U.S.

LD3003112594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Irina Bolshova and Vladimir Kikilo]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—"We want real cooperation, not an ostentatious one," President Boris Yeltsin said on Wednesday when receiving a U.S. business delegation led by Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown, Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told ITAR-TASS.

Davydov is attending the current session of the American-Russian Committee for the Development of Business Cooperation at President-Hotel here.

Four Russian-U.S. trade documents are expected to be signed at the session, Davydov said. These are:

—regulations for a committee on the development of Russian-U.S. business cooperation,

—regulations for the establishment of American business centres, to be funded by the U.S.,

—a joint statement on Russian commodities' access to the American market and of American ones to the Russian market, on the training of personnel and standardisation,

—an agreement on terms for the supply of American medicines to the Russian market.

Denies 'Cooling' in U.S. Relations

LD3003125194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1213 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin denied US media claims that Russian-US relations are "cooling down" and told US Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown on Wednesday that the relations are steadily developing along the course of partnership, cooperation and friendship.

The Russian leader noted that an important role in the issue is played by President Bill Clinton and personal contacts between the leaders of the two countries.

Yeltsin stressed that Russia and the United States have reached "good results" at the initial stage of trade and economic cooperation and called to further boost relations.

The Russian leader said Russia will actively participate in international labour division on a mutually beneficial basis.

Shokhin, Dubinin Meet Brown Delegation

LD2903213894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1943 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] In the Radisson Slavyanskaya hotel a round table took place at which members of the American delegation headed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown and representatives of the Russian Government met.

The signing of an agreement on civil peace will be the main condition for economic and political stabilization in the country, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin stated at the meeting. Sergey Dubinin gave the American businessmen the assurance that Russia's financial stabilization is becoming a reality. He believes that by the end of the year inflation will not exceed 5-7 percent per month.

Russia To Aid DPRK in Event of 'Unprovoked Aggression'

LD2903171294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] In keeping with the treaty between the USSR and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea Russia will help North Korea in the event of an unprovoked aggression, but will make the decision only on the basis of its own analysis of the situation. This was reported at a Tuesday briefing in Moscow by the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov.

He described the current situation in the Korean peninsula as balancing on the brink of war.

In his opinion the recent Russian initiative to convene a conference of six interested countries (China, the USA, Japan, Russia and the two Koreas) and the United

Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency promotes a settlement in that part of the world.

The deputy minister stressed that Russia by no means questions the efforts of the UN Security Council or the IAEA. "However, the steps of the two organizations to normalize the situation in the Korean peninsula do not always produce the desired results", he remarked.

Panov announced that the Russian initiative is closely studied by all interested sides. "So far there have been no negative answers", he said.

In the opinion of the diplomat the conference should concentrate on making the peninsula a nuclear-free zone. He stressed that Russia and the USA agree that the conference should be well-prepared and discuss the membership of North Korea in the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, the observation of all safety regulations and a joint declaration of the two Koreas on a nuclear-free zone.

According to Panov, the conference could begin in Geneva and continue in Pyongyang and Seoul interchangeably.

The diplomat said that in the framework of organizing the conference it would be useful to hold preliminary unofficial consultations of all interested sides in Moscow. "It is absolutely unnecessary for everyone to sit at the same table. We understand that some participants would find it hard to communicate directly therefore we do not rule out the possibility of mediators", Panov said.

He added that a conference of six countries, representatives of the UN Secretary General and the General Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency is not the final format and the list of participants could be extended.

China, ROK 'Unanimous' in Ignoring Russian Initiative

PM3003101194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Beijing and Seoul Ignore Kozyrev Initiative"]

[Text] Beijing—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, who is ending his trip to China, will be going home empty-handed. At least as regards the DPRK's nuclear program, nothing came of the Sino-South Korean talks.

All Kim Yong-sam's attempts to persuade PRC President Jiang Zemin and the other Chinese leaders to exert pressure on Pyongyang came to nothing.

In response President Jiang reiterated the previous Chinese formula, which states that there is no point in transferring the issue of inspections of all North Korean nuclear installations to the UN Security Council, much less in taking sanctions against Pyongyang.

Moreover, referring to the U.S. intention to site Patriot missiles in the southern part of the peninsula and to resume the "Team Spirit" military maneuvers, the PRC leader said that such measures could only exacerbate tension still further. Jiang took the same tone on this issue as the DPRK Foreign Ministry, which has described the reinforcement of U.S. and South Korean forces as a step toward war.

While they found no common ground on the key subject of finding a way to resolve the present crisis, Beijing and Seoul were unanimous in ignoring Russia's proposal to convene an international conference on removing nuclear weapons from the peninsula. Neither side even mentioned the suggestion in their exchange of opinions.

The PRC president considered it necessary to stress that the nuclear problem should be resolved not at a conference but within the framework of quadrilateral talks between North and South Korea, the United States, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

ROK Rejects Russian Debt Repayment Terms

LD3003083294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul March 30 TASS—South Korea has refused to accept the terms for a deferment of the repayment of Russia's debts on credits which the Seoul government had promised and partially provided for the former Soviet Union. Such is the outcome of Russian-South Korean talks which ended here on Wednesday.

At the same time, Mikhail Fradkov, Russian first deputy minister for foreign economic relations, who leads the Russian delegation at the talks, told ITAR-TASS that "the normal negotiating process is underway, and the negotiations will be continued".

Upon signing an agreement with the "Paris Club" of creditor countries in April last year on a rescheduling of the repayment of debts to the club member-states, Russia found itself in a situation in which it cannot settle with individual creditor countries, even non-members of club, including the Republic of Korea, on terms that would differ from those set by the Paris Club.

The Russian side tried to convince the Seoul government of the need to accept a debt repayment schedule comparable with the Paris Club terms but South Korean financial agencies have not agreed to that so far.

South Korea provided the Soviet Union with credits amounting to 1,470 million U.S. dollars of the promised 3,000 million dollars. Russia upon having confirmed the assumption of the former Soviet Union's international obligations, paid interest in cash and partially through the deliveries of aluminium ingots.

However, following the Paris Club's debt rescheduling decision, the repayment of Russia's debts to South Korea

was suspended. The amount of overdue payments as of the end of February was about 449 million U.S. dollars.

N. Korean Guest Workers Exploited, Oppressed

PM2903162594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 4

[Boris Reznik report: "Top Secret Korean Facilities in Russian Taiga"]

[Text] Khabarovsk/Chegdomyn—Rumors of slave labor and of DPRK citizens living in the Russian Far East without any rights have been doing the rounds for a long time now. It is hard to establish to what extent they are true and to what extent they are false: The heads of the Korean mission and the Korean security services (the latter are very active in the Siberian wastes on an entirely official basis) establish their own procedures there. For example, two women journalists from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and a South Korean television crew looking into the problem were snubbed as "emissaries of imperialism." Others were taken around "showcase facilities" which had been seen many times and had to listen to prepared texts about the happy citizens of their brilliant land being the freest people on earth.

Nonetheless, your IZVESTIYA correspondent managed to peep behind the scenes of the customary theater presentation.

How It All Began

The first intergovernmental agreement between the USSR and the DPRK on joint timber logging on the territory of the Russian Far East was signed exactly 27 years ago, in March 1967. There was a great deal of politics in that agreement, but very little economics.

And although it was pure ideology, we turned a blind eye to the fact that the Korean comrades often behaved in a manner that was far from fraternal. Timber industry supervisors suddenly discovered that Korean workers were secretly chopping down trees, obtaining the resin, and sending it home. There were no agreements sanctioning this kind of activity. Local people and hunting inspectors were increasingly encountering blatant poaching by Korean loggers. They were using barbaric methods to kill musk deer, Manchurian elk, and sable and they were laying waste the celebrated mountain cranberries of Verkhnebureinskiy Rayon...

For the entire 27-year period the forest protection service has been keeping records of gross breaches of the forest management rules by Korean loggers. They fail to clear felling areas of leftover wood, they destroy new growth, and on only one occasion in all these years have they planted a small area with young trees....

One wonders why in heaven's name we concluded the treaty in the first place.

North Koreans As Saviors of the Industry [subhead]

Strange as it may seem, the most zealous advocates of the extension of the intergovernmental agreement on joint DPRK and Russian timber logging in the Far East are the leaders of Verkhnebureinskiy Rayon, where this predatory logging goes on. Their main argument is that, if the Koreans leave, the rayon's timber industry will soon die out because there is no one to take the place of the foreign state's citizens in this difficult taiga work. So I was told by rayon administration chief Petr Titkov, who was himself a timber worker in the recent past and worked for some years alongside Koreans in the "Urgalles" association, which represents the Russian side in joint activity under the intergovernmental agreement.

What economic foundation would Verkhnebureinskiy Rayon lose with the departure of the Koreans from the taiga forest lots? Last year the "Urgalles" association, through which all economic arrangements are made with the "Gastarbeiter" from North Korea, paid 1.5 billion rubles [R] in taxes into the federal, kray, and rayon budgets. Some R446 million remained in the rayon, which is one-tenth of all budget appropriations. A trifling amount of money these days. But clearly we cannot expect even that amount this year. This sad conclusion can be drawn from the results of the work of native loggers since the beginning of the year.

Their daily round wood production schedule is 4,548 cubic meters. But they are producing only 1,400-1,500 cubic meters per day. That is the amount being produced, for example, by the De-Kastrinskiy timber logging operation. It employs around 600 Russian loggers, whereas the North Korean timber logging association employs over 6,000.

This answers the question why the rayon bosses are in favor of a treaty which places the country in bondage: A mass of problems far removed from the practice of joint timber logging is being resolved in Chegdomyn, Urgal, and Novyy Urgal by the almost free workforce from the DPRK. For example, Korean workers are constructing the Urgal railroach branch administration building, and local people hire them to dig truck gardens, repair apartments, erect garages, dachas, and barns...

"Our workers will fleece you real bad," a rather drunk "native" of Chegdomyn told us candidly, "whereas this bunch—give them a bowl of soup each or a bottle of moonshine and, boy, will they work!"

Denial of Rights and the Rights of the Korean Individual [subhead]

...It is a common sight in these parts: Emaciated people in short jackets and Kim Il-Sung caps, with "great leader" badges on their chests, roaming the streets of the settlements, tormented by the continual fear of starvation. Their silent suffering does not concern the local Russian officials one bit. The latter have no concept of the fact that it is a grave sin to exploit people who are dependent on you, taking cynical advantage of their dependence. If they have to explain themselves to their

own or foreign journalists they have a pat formula: What we are doing is building relations with the North Koreans on a purely economic basis. As for delicate matters such as human rights, they are the Foreign Ministry's concern.

With the connivance of the kray and rayon authorities, North Korea has long since constructed its own strongholds, like states within a state, living in accordance with their own totalitarian laws. Remember 18 months ago, when photographs of prison cells erected behind the high fences of North Korean encampments were all over the Russian and foreign press? Runaway timber loggers told journalists about the sophisticated torture that went on there, about the severe punishments meted out for the slightest offense.

The North Korean security service is not only operating in Chegdomyn and Verkhnebureinskiy Rayon, but is rampaging all over Russia with impunity. For example, its officers carried out a search of a Russian woman's apartment in Khabarovsk, suspecting her of hiding a Korean who had run away from timber logging.

These patently illegal actions take place with the consent of our law-enforcement organs. Their DPRK colleagues evidently have some kind of agreement, the text of which is secret. All we do know is that our militia is helping the North Korean security service to catch runaways, who are increasing in numbers with each passing year. When caught they are immediately handed over to Korean "comrades," and what happens then is shrouded in mystery. There are currently more than 50 people on the run.

There is one very worrying element: There has been a sharp fall in the amount of timber cut, while the Korean side is ordering more and more galvanized iron from "Urgalles" to make coffins for people killed in "accidents." Formerly any incident of this kind would have been carefully investigated by our technical experts and the findings of a forensic medical expert on the cause of death would have been required. Now the procedure has been "simplified": No examinations are carried out, the bodies are kept in a refrigerator, and they are then taken home in a special freightcar.

We made a considerable effort to arrange a visit to the North Korean hospital where loggers are treated, but our way was barred as if it were a top-secret strategic facility. V. Cherepanov, a surgeon from Chegdomyn hospital, who has access to the hospital, said that conditions in the "hospital" were squalid, to put it mildly: Water has to be brought in, the toilets are outside, the premises are primitive, are there are hardly any medicines....

It should be borne in mind what kind of diet the citizens of the "brilliant land" have. A senior party official from the DPRK timber logging mission recited a long list of all the things their workers allegedly receive: Every month around five kg of meat, nearly 30 kg of rice and fresh vegetables each, fish.... Knowing that in Khabarovsk a kilogram of fresh cucumbers currently costs more than R5,000 and tomatoes around R10,000 and that in Chegdomyn the price is nearly twice as high as that, we wanted to know where the Korean comrades got the vegetables from.

"We have our own wonderful hothouses, which provide abundant crops," came the reply.

In Chegdomyn we learned that nothing had been grown in hothouses for two years and the Korean workers were not even getting their national dish—"kimchi," highly seasoned cabbage—and their diet consisted of rice alone....

...The intergovernmental agreement on joint timber logging in the Russian Far East between our country and the DPRK expired on 31 December. So far a new one has not been signed. But if it is considered economically expedient to continue thos cooperation, our country, which loudly proclaims itself democratic, is simply obliged to stop foreigners doing whatever they like on our fatherland's territory.

Nazarbayev Elaborates on Euro-Asian Alliance

LD3003130094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan is convinced that successful development of the peoples inhabiting the former Soviet Union is possible only through their uniting into a new alliance.

Nazarbayev, who met Russian media chiefs on Wednesday morning, emphasised that he had long been nurturing the idea and that Boris Yeltsin was the first to hear his considerations. "It is just impossible for us to make progress without such an alliance," Nazarbayev said.

"I have always been an advocate of a close union. The economies of ex-Soviet republics are closely interconnected. The euphoria of sovereignties is over, and ex-soviet states are coming to realise that we all need one another", the president of Kazakhstan said.

Nazarbayev gave the following particular example: Russia's submarine fleet is catered for by about 40 enterprises from "landlocked" Kazakhstan. Inter-dependence is great whatever the branch of industry, he said.

Meanwhile, Nazarbayev said, unnecessary customs barriers are being installed. Russia has set up 65 customs points at the border with Kazakhstan at a time when Kazakhstan does not consider it necessary to take similar measures.

The president of Kazakhstan believes that much will change for the better following his visit to Moscow and his talks with Boris Yeltsin. "The strategic policy of

partnership has been sealed. Abiding by it, we shall enter the 21st Century," he stated.

Media chiefs wondered why Nazarbayev came forward with the Euro-Asian Union (EAU) idea without being content with the existence of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"The CIS is in existence but we get farther and farther away from one another," he said. Four hundred documents have been signed but they all do not work, he added.

The president of Kazakhstan believes that supranational bodies are essential for integration to really [be] effective. He was confirmed in this belief once again during his recent trip to Western Europe.

It is necessary to have a supernational [as received] parliament and such bodies as a defence ministers' council, a foreign ministers' council, an inter-state secretariat, which would see to it that the accords reached are implemented. It would be also useful to set up a council for education and culture and a common information agency.

Nazarbayev visualises a Euro-Asian union as a voluntary association of states, with a supranational currency, an inter-state investment fund, and a common programme for economic reforms. The language of inter-nation intercourse in the contemplated EAU must be Russian. And "there should be no associated members", the president added.

Asked about the future of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, Nazarbayev said no tests would be conducted there any longer. Five hundred nuclear detonations over a span of forty years turned the land there into a scorched desert, he remarked.

As far as the Baykonur Cosmodrome is concerned, the president recalled that appropriate Russian-Kazakshtan accords had been reached. "The main thing is to keep the cosmodrome for joint use. As far as money is concerned, we reached agreement on acceptable terms," he said.

In response to complaints by Russian newspaper editors that their publications encounter distribution difficulties in Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev promised that the arisen problems would be settled. "We are interested in the existence of Russian newspapers in Kazakhstan," he assured.

Shumeyko Supports Proposal

LD3003112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASs—Russian Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, during a meeting with journalists, supported the proposal made by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev to establish a Euro-Asian union. Shumeyko considers it possible to establish such a union on a new basis, not just recreate the former Soviet Union.

Shumeyko's opinion is that it is possible to create a new union on the basis of the already existing CIS institutions: The Council of the Heads of State, the Council of the Heads of Government, and the Interparliamentary Assembly.

He also believes that it is essential gradually to establish "supranational institutions which would administer such a union." One can speak about the creation of common armed forces, a common monetary system and that there is no need for borders, Shumeyko remarked, being of the opinion that it is time to moot these ideas in society.

Speaking about his recent visit to France, the Federation Council speaker pointed out that he had been particularly gratified by the trip to Strasbourg and the decision on Russia's accession to the Council of Europe.

Shumeyko announced that a peace-making group of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, led by Kyrgyzstan parliament chief Medetkan Sherimkulov, leaves Moscow for the Transcaucasus on Thursday. The delegation will include representatives from a number of CIS countries and the Russian Federation Council committees.

Nazarbayev Completes Official Visit

LD3003082294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0642 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev completed his first official visit to Russia on Wednesday.

An official farewell ceremony was held in St. George Hall of the Kremlin.

Nazarbayev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin thanked their delegations for the work.

Russian Leader Criticizes Kazakh Discrimination

LD2903194594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The chairman of the Russian Community of North Kazakhstan has strongly criticized Kazakhstan's policy towards its Russian-speaking population.

Boris Suprugin, addressing the Russian president's commission on citizenship on Tuesday, urged Moscow to take action against what he qualified as discrimination against Russian speakers and to link Russia's economic assistance to Kazakhstan to this problem.

He also insisted that the Russian government press for dual citizenship for North Kazakhstan's Russian-speaking community, which accounts for about 80 percent of the region's population, and for Russian speakers throughout Kazakhstan. Since the Kazakh government refused to allow Russia to open its consulates in Kazakhstan, Suprugin asked the Russian Foreign Ministry to set up consulates in Russian regions bordering on the Central Asian republic to make it easier for its ethnic Russians to receive Russian citizenship.

Suprugin demanded an official status for Kazakhstan's Cossack community to make it "a state structure that would make it possible to keep on tenterhooks states which violate the rights of their Russian population."

He said Russia should not have signed with Kazakhstan an agreement to lease from it the Baykonur spacecraft-launching complex for $115 Mn, for the complex had been built at Russia's expense. He expressed the apprehension that a similar agreement would be made on the 200-km section of the Trans-Siberian Railway running through Kazakhstan.

Perry's Kazakh-Russian Mediation Offer Questioned

MK3003082094 M[illegible] MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS[illegible]ssian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Americans Suggest That It Be Split Three Ways, Although It Is Not Enough Even for Two"]

[Text] That an ordinary intrigue is still present among methods of international diplomacy has once again been demonstrated by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, who has proven yet another time the classical principle that "a country does not have either friends, or foes; what it does have is interests."

He became a source of a little—albeit unpleasant for Russian politicians—sensation. Upon arriving in Alma-Ata [Almaty] on an official visit just a few days before Yeltsin's meeting with Nazarbayev, Perry sent to Moscow a thoroughly confidential document. Your MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent has learned from official sources that the document signaled the Americans' readiness to act as a middleman between Russia and Kazakhstan in talks on the fate of Baykonur (of course, if the CIS countries themselves ask the White House to do so).

Evidently, the U.S. secretary's initiative is scarcely of any real value: at this moment relations between the two—albeit former—union republics wholly enable them to talk directly, without an interpreter.

But Moscow was politely reminded yet another time that a situation where Kazakhstan was in Russia's unquestioned sphere of influence is receding into the past. Indeed, investment attracted into the Central Asian country to finance specific projects alone already exceed $20 billion.

On the other hand, the document has elicited a certain distrust from Russian leaders: What if Perry has actually agreed on something behind the Kremlin's back while in Alma-Ata [Almaty] (which, as a matter of fact, may well be the case, too).

Although a document on Baykonur, among other things, was signed during the meeting between Yeltsin and Nazarbayev, which is considered very successful, one is getting the impression that the Moscow leaders find it more and more difficult to talk with their partners in the language of stern demands (including about military bases). Perry's letter appears to have played a part in bringing this about.

Details on Baykonur Lease, Utilization Reported

PM3003102194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[Vasiliy Kononenko article: "Problem of Baykonur Declared Solved. Will It Be Able To Survive?"]

[Text] On the morning of 28 March, when a reception was held for Kazakhstani President N. Nazarbayev in the Kremlin with all the honors befitting the leader of a sovereign state, one could hardly have expected a significant breakthrough in Russian-Kazakhstani relations, which have over the last few months noticeably cooled, primarily owing to the acute disagreements over the future of the Baykonur Cosmodrome.

However, that very same evening, even before the package of around two dozen documents had been signed, it became clear that B. Yeltsin and N. Nazarbayev had succeeded in eliminating the mutual bones of contention—of which there had been plenty during the lengthy talks between experts and the leaders of the Ministry of the Economy and the Foreign Ministry—and adopted a determined decision which promises to prolong the life of the unique space rocket complex.

What happened during the eight-hour talks in Moscow? Why did Nazarbayev so rapidly abandon the excessive claims that Alma-Ata [Almaty] had put forward during the negotiating marathon? There is every indication that the solution should be sought in a practice that has become traditional for experienced politicians: Ask for as much as possible and get as much as you can.

By the time the Kazakhstani delegation arrived in Moscow the set of documents prepared by the various departments looked like this. The heads of state were to discuss and sign treaties on military cooperation, on deepening economic integration between the two countries, and on the basic principles for resolving matters of granting dual citizenship, as well as, of course, the agreement on the basic principles for the use of the Baykonur Cosmodrome.

The heads of government were to settle questions of collaboration in the field of military-technical cooperation and the servicing and maintenance of the strategic nuclear forces, and also to finally make joint efforts to remove a nuclear device left in a silo at the Semipalatinsk test site following its closure. According to one participant in the talks, these and other draft documents did not give rise to particular dispute. The Baykonur draft, which was submitted to the presidents in a very "raw" form, remained the thorn in the flesh. And not because the experts were unable to reach agreement. They had been given mutually exclusive paramaters for the cost of leasing the cosmodrome. Moreover, the cosmodrome is doomed without the city of Leninsk, without the Russian specialists living there. But Russian citizens cannot live and work normally in this city, which is under Kazakhstan's jurisdiction, unless the legal status of Russian specialists in this country is defined.

The situation at the talks changed dramatically straight after the two presidents had a one-on-one conversation lasting roughly an hour. In his introductory address to the delegations Yeltsin said: "There were some questions over the documents, but we have settled them...." Soon many participants in the talks on both sides began leaving the Kremlin. It turned out that they were going off to the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of the Economy since the presidents had given them strict instructions: Coordinate your positions within six hours so that the Russian side's leasing of Baykonur becomes a reality.

Economy Minister A. Shokhin described the gist of the draft during a conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent. The term of the cosmodrome lease is to run for 20 years. The amount of rent proposed by the Russian side must not exceed $82 million, which has already been enshrined in this year's budget. (Yu. Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency, cited a figure of $105-150 million). As for the city of Leninsk, Russia cannot fund it with the present number of inhabitants—around 150,000 people. We may be talking about 40,000 specialists and members of their families. The Kazakhstani authorities are also to participate in funding the city. Needless to say, all these problems cannot be settled in six hours. Therefore some of them will be postponed until Yeltsin's visit to Alma-Ata, which will most likely take place this May. He received an invitation to that effect from Nazarbayev.

After the joint document signing ceremony the presidents told journalists in unison that Baykonur will survive. "We had no political disagreements. There were just technical difficulties," Yeltsin said. Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev described the latter in an interview with your IZVESTIYA correspondent. The idea that has been around for some time of dividing up the cosmodrome and handing it over to an international company (the information "leak" about the creation of a Kazakhstani-Ukrainian company was most likely arranged with this in mind—author's note) rapidly collapsed. And there is no need to look for intrigues on the part of the military here. Everyone who has studied the problem realizes that the cosmodrome is unviable without Russia. It must remain a unified complex.

"In other words, Nazarbayev had no other options?" I asked.

"I would say this: Kazakhstan is not the loser here," the minister replied. "Preserving the cosmodrome boosts that state's status. What is more, we will be paying to use it. And there is no one else to pay. U.S. launch technology, for instance, simply cannot be reconciled with ours."

The saga of the rescue of Baykonur has been declared over, but it is too early to draw a line under it. Remember that it was decided in Massandra to buy out the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea Fleet. But nothing has budged an inch.

Commission Makes Proposals To Protect Russians Abroad

LD2903192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian president's commission on citizenship has drawn up proposals for Russia's policy on ethnic Russians living in other former Soviet republics.

The commission suggests that guarantees of the rights of Russians permanently resident in countries of the former Soviet Union be formalized in accords between Russia and each such state. The same policy, the commission suggests, should be used to ensure the rights of people from such states who live in Russia. The commission will recommend that the president issue a decree to that effect, Abdulakh Mikitayev, head of the commission, said at its meeting on Tuesday.

Mikitayev said the Soviet Union's disintegration had left about 50 Mn people, including 30 Mn Russians, outside their historic homelands. He said many of them wished to go back and that there were increasing numbers of refugees.

The commission says, in a document containing its proposals, that ethnic Russians' basic rights were being violated in some of the former Soviet republics. Latvia and Estonia, for instance, do not give citizenship to hundreds of thousands of their residents, thereby restricting their voting and property rights and making their actual right to live in those countries problematic.

The commission suggests dual citizenship for such people, something the Russian law makes provision for, Mikitayev said. He said Turkmenistan is so far the only state with which Russia has a dual citizenship agreement. The commission also proposes that Russian continue to be used in contacts between different ex-Soviet states. Russia needs a special economic policy to put those proposals into practice, the commission believes.

Federal Migration Service (FMS) chief Tatyana Regent said Moscow should provide stronger protection for ethnic Russians' economic interests in order not to "receive them impoverished" if they choose to return to Russia.

She said one serious problem was illegal migration, which was the target of a presidential decree of December 16, 1993. To carry out the decree, the FMS was setting up an immigration control service, Regent said.

Shakhray Discusses Ethnic Russians in Central Asia

LD2903212794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Over the past years 356,000 ethnic Russians have emigrated from Central Asian republics to the Russian Federation. In particular, 120,000 left Kazakhstan, 106,000—Kyrgyzia [Kyrgyzstan], 90,000—Uzbekistan. Russian Minister of Nationalities and Regional Policy Sergey Shakhray gave these figures during his meeting in Moscow on Tuesday with CSCE Supreme Commissar for Ethnic Minorities Max van der Stoel.

After the meeting Shakhray told Interfax that he had informed the guest about the reasons for the migration of ethnic Russians from Central Asian countries. Thus, statistical data show that 28 percent explained the return to their historical homeland with "the real threat of violence or persecution," and 19 percent with "insult and humililation of national dignity."

In the minister's opinion, if the situation for ethnic Russians does not impove in this region, within the next two or three years the migration of 3 million people can be expected from the Central Asian republics to the Russian Federation.

The situation with 11 million ethnic Russians living in Ukraine is also complicated. According to Shakhray, the main problems there are "the exclusion of the Russian language from the daily life and business, "the Ukrainization" of education in high schools, the obligatory knowledge of the Ukrainian language for getting a profession." Shakhray noted that in Ukraine, like in other republics of the former Soviet Union, the share of unemployed ethnic Russians is "inadmissibly large."

Regarding the situation of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic states, Shakhray said that after the parliaments of these states adopted corresponding laws, 300,000 ethnic Russians living in Estonia were deprived of citizenship. In Latvia 700,000 Russians lost citizenship, of them 160,000 have no legal status at all, including the right to work.

Shakhray stated that Russia as a legal successor of the Soviet Union has taken all responsibility for those people who "hold only the USSR passport."

The minister believes that a multilateral convention within the framework of the CIS should be signed to assure the rights of ethnic minorities and that on the basis of this document bilateral treaties must be concluded. In his opinion, apart from that it would also be necessary to establish efficient control over the observance of these documents.

Shakhray said that at the meeting with Max van der Stoel it was agreed to expand cooperation in the protection of interests of ethnic minorities and in the more efficient use of international mechanisms on this issue.

Grachev, Romanian Premier Discuss Bilateral Ties

LD2903154394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[Text] Bucharest March 29 TASS—All European states must help ensure European security, there should not be masters to control their servants in future, Russian Defence Minister General of Army Pavel Grachev told correspondents upon the completion of his meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

In his words, the sides discussed aspects of foreign policy and partnership with Western Europe and the United States, and revealed similarity and peculiarities in their approaches to partnership with other states. They agreed that partnership should have an equal mutually beneficial basis and include neither tutors nor pupils.

The sides agreed that Russian and Romanian development has much in common. The Romanian state head said he favors closer cooperation with Russia, is looking forward to a meeting with Boris Yeltsin and hopes the meeting will be held this year.

Russia is also striving to consolidate comprehensive relations with Romania which, unfortunately, have been somewhat suspended, said Grachev.

Today's meeting of the Russian defence minister and Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu stressed the importance for boosted bilateral relations. The resumption and expansion of bilateral relations and the use of years-long experience under new conditions corresponds to the interests of both states, said the Romanian premier.

In his turn, Grachev voiced the need for boosted relations in all spheres and praised the signed agreement on military cooperation, which provides for Russian training of Romanian officers, joint military exercises and exchange of specialists. The planned interaction in the defence industry, especially conversion, is of much interest as well.

The Russian delegation has left for the area of Ploiesti to attend tactical drill of a mechanized armed unit and visit the Peles King palace in the Carpathian town of Sinaia.

Romania Seeking Cooperation

LD3003143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Morozov]

[Text] Bucharest March 30 TASS—"In principle Romania has reconsidered its attitude towards Russia and is seeking to develop cooperation with it in all spheres," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said upon the completion of his three-day visit to Romania.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, Grachev said that the trip had been postponed twice. "When I was flying here I expected to see restraint and hear traditional phrases instead of words about closer contacts," he said. "However pretty soon, mostly on the initiative of the Romanian side, there were no doubts about the need for my visit left, all our neighbours stressed that despite the long stagnation in bilateral relations Romania is ready to develop equal and mutually beneficial ties with Russia," the minister said.

Relations between the armed forces of the two countries broke up after the conflict in the Dniester Republic, Grachev continued. Now Romanian partners have shown that they have changed their views. "During the talks none of our partners tried to raise the question about the situation in Moldova. This is a real turn—not to connect our bilateral relations with the situation in a third country. The situation in Moldova is the internal affair of that independent state and its leaders will settle it on their own," he said.

The key question of Russian-Romanian military relations is cooperation in the military and technical sphere. The disintegration of the Warsaw Pact has severed traditional ties between the two countries. The bulk of machinery and equipment now used by the Romanian Army was made in the Soviet Union. Some spare parts could be produced in Romania, but the majority of them have to be supplied from Russia. Now that Romanian and Russian defence departments signed an agreement on cooperation, Romanian plants which have been making spare parts for obsolete military equipment will switch to civilian production, others will be modernised with Russia's assistance.

Romania was the first to have joined the Partnership for Peace programme and made no secret of its intention to eventually join NATO, Grachev noted. "President (Ion) Iliescu told me that Romania calls for integration into NATO with all other countries simultaneously, including Russia. The head of the Romanian state foresees the transformation of that military-political alliance into a military-peace-making union. Moreover, the president of Romania prioritises partnership not so much in the military as in the economic sphere," he added.

Many former Warsaw Pact countries consider the Partnership for Peace programme as a stage towards full integration with NATO. This is a very long process which will go gradually. Now these countries are not ready to enter NATO and this transitional period may last eight to ten years, according to various estimates.

"As for Russia, we will not integrate into the structures of the North Atlantic Alliance. One of the reasons is that it is impossible to adjust Russian nuclear missiles to NATO standards. Russia is a great power and it has a great Army with powerful modern weapons. That's why we stand for close cooperation, but the Partnership for Peace programme is not a transitional stage for us," Grachev said.

"Fears that this programme may hamper the establishment of new military structures within the CIS are groundless," the minister continued. "There are certain circles in Russia which have never stopped considering Western countries, let alone NATO, as an enemy. It is they who claim that Russia is allegedly being involved in NATO structures and that NATO will soon govern Russia. This will never happen. We can exist on our own and resist any bloc, including NATO, if the need arises. It is time to stop frightening our people with American and NATO threat," he said.

In a separate statement made at a news conference in Bucharest, Grachev said that Russian troops will act as peace-keeping forces in the former Soviet Union, pending a respective resolution by the U.N. Security Council. Russian troops will be deployed in a republic only with consent of its leaders and will act in conjunction with the troops of that republic to prevent bloodsheds.

At present, 15,000 Russian troops are engaged in peacekeeping operations. The issue is expected to be discussed during U.N. Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali's upcoming visit to Moscow in April.

International Naval Exercise Breaks New Ground

PM2903135394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "'Pomor-94': 'War' From Briefing to Briefing. Joint Exercises by Forces From Five Navies Have Been Completed in North Atlantic; Cooperation Is Continuing"]

[Text] Nowadays few would be surprised by Russia's military cooperation with powers which it once opposed. Something else would surprise a number of people: Despite all the difficulties it is experiencing, the Russian Navy is by no means playing second fiddle in this embryonic partnership.

The colors of the participants' flags in the "Pomor-94" exercises were identical—red, white, and blue. But the interests of the countries which have now sent their ships to the North Atlantic used to be as different as the design of their flags. Today they have more and more interests in common and increasing grounds for cooperation. The fact that the world's oceans are becoming safer in

advance of other regions was confirmed by the "Pomor-94" exercises, which took place without a shot being fired.

During this exercise six ships—two from Norway and one each from the United States, Britain, the Netherlands, and the Russian escort ship Legkiy from the Northern Fleet—practiced tasks involving joint maneuvers, search and rescue of those in distress, coordination of operations with patrol aircraft back at base, and coastal blockades with the aim of preventing smuggling. The phrase "for the first time" may be applied to these exercises in many ways, not least because this is the first time such maneuvers have ever been held. It is also remarkable that for the first time a Russian military journalist traveled on board a Norwegian ship during exercises on this scale. And the fact that Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, participated in the exercises made them important enough for the Norwegian defense minister to attend as well.

The "Pomor-94" exercises started and finished with news conferences by leaders and organizers of this new round of marine cooperation. The Norwegian Admiral Ove Sten Olsen, who was in charge of the exercise campaign headquarters, spoke highly of the Russian sailors and noted that cooperation of this sort would also be planned in future. In reply, Admiral Igor Kasatonov announced that the Russian Navy is this year planning to participate in a number of other similar joint exercises, including the landing of a Russian-U.S. assault force near Vladivostok. Next year the Russian Northern Fleet plans to host the "Pomor" exercises combined squadron.

Consequences of Ukraine Election, Poll Viewed

PM3003090194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Maksim Yusin article: "Ukrainian Elections Reveal Dangerous Trend: Regions Are Pulling Different Ways"]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliamentary elections and a poll in Crimea which was conducted despite being banned by Kiev confirmed the worst fears regarding the Ukraine of the future.

Although most electoral districts still face a second round and the names of the new Supreme Council deputies will at best be known 10 April, two conclusions can be drawn now.

The first is that today the republic is to all intents and purposes split. On the one hand, the western oblasts are the bastion of Ukrainian "independence," where most voters voted for Rukh and other "patriotic" movements. On the other hand, you have the east, which leans toward Russia and where candidates advocating rapprochement with Moscow celebrated their success. The results of a poll conducted in Donetsk Oblast showed the mood of inhabitants of the eastern regions today. According to preliminary figures, 87 percent of the oblast's residents were in favor of Russian being recognized as the second official language and 85 percent were in favor of Ukraine fully entering into an economic union with Russia.

Both these demands are unacceptable to the "national-democratic" parties which won a decisive victory in the west of the republic. There is a real threat that the future parliament, torn between two irreconcilable political forces, will be unviable. Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil stated unequivocally that he will be unable to find a common language with former Premier Leonid Kuchma, who is "entirely Russia-oriented." However, it is Kuchma who is deemed the favorite in the coming presidential elections. He confirmed his popularity 27 March: In Chernigov Oblast, which borders Russia, Kuchma's candidacy won the support of over 90 percent of the voters.

The second conclusion concerns Crimea. Eighty percent of the peninsula's inhabitants who took part in the poll of the population answered "yes" to two questions that Leonid Kravchuk has declared unconstitutional. As Kiev feared, the people of Crimea voted in favor of dual citizenship (Ukrainian and Russia) and greater autonomy from Ukraine.

The outcome of the ballot not only threatens a fresh crisis between the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities but may well affect relations between Moscow and Kiev. [Crimean] President Yuriy Meshkov is making no secret of his plans: Based on the will of the people he will demand that the Crimean parliament adopt the appropriate laws. Aware that Kiev takes an extremely adverse view of this, the Crimean president is deliberately heading for a conflict, relying "on himself, on his administration, and the help of the Black Sea Fleet."

For their part Ukrainian radicals are urging Kravchuk to use force to impose order on the peninsula. And although the Ukrainian president will hardly take their advice, the threat of armed confrontation is looming large. Especially if the Black Sea Fleet responds to Meshkov's appeals and backs him in violation of the Russo-Ukrainian accords. It is no coincidence that in a recent television interview Kravchuk spoke of the possibility of another Karabakh.

Russian diplomats are giving assurances that Moscow's plans do not include exacerbating the situation in the Crimea. Russia is primarily interested in Kiev's nuclear disarmament, which may be suspended if a threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity arises. On the eve of the Crimean poll the Russian authorities took an emphatically neutral stance, reluctant to interfere in the sovereign state's domestic affairs. Nevertheless events are largely developing contrary to Kiev's wishes. No matter how Yeltsin and Kozyrev urge restraint on Meshkov, the Crimean president is considerably closer in spirit to other Russian politicians. It is no coincidence, according to REUTER, that in one of his interviews he spoke of his enthusiastic view of Zhirinovskiy.

If the crisis in Ukraine worsens while relative stability at least is preserved in Russia, separatist aspirations will receive a fresh boost—and not just in Crimea. In that case Moscow may find itself involved against its own wishes in the maelstrom of events in the neighboring country. And even if Yeltsin takes a moderate stance, it is unlikely that the Duma, dominated by communists and nationalists, will resist the temptation to play the Crimean card and, in the future, the Donetsk, Lugansk, Dnepropetrovsk cards....

A foreign diplomat accredited in Moscow admitted that during private conversations Russian officials have already begun testing the water in an endeavor to find out how the West would regard the dismemberment of Ukraine. At the moment these hypotheses are no more than that. At any rate Yeltsin's entourage has no intention of forcing the process. Annexing the Crimea would not improve the economic situation in Russia and would hardly strengthen its international position. The Russian Federation itself has enough trouble spots, is it worth adding another?

The Kremlin has opted for wait-and-see tactics with regard to Ukraine, weighing up all the "pros" and "cons" and leaving the Kiev authorities themselves to unravel knots that are growing tighter by the day.

Churkin Views Croatia-Krajina Cease-Fire

LD3003094294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb, 30 Mar—The two-year military confrontation between the Croats and the Serbs from Krajina has come to an end. At 0430, following 17 hours of difficult talks in the Russian Embassy in Zagreb, an agreement was signed envisaging a cease-fire and the withdrawal of weapons and troops from the demarcation line in the areas of Croatia under UN control. In accordance with the document, which comes into effect on 0900 on 4 April, heavy weapons are to be withdrawn 20 km, light weapons 10 km, and troops 1,000 meters away from the 300-km long demarcation line.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Vitaliy Churkin, representative of the Russian Federation president, stressed the high degree of coordination of the actions of the key members of the international community taking part in the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis—Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations. At key moments in the talks, representatives of these countries and organizations acted from united positions, making it possible to nudge the sides in the direction of accords. This was an extremely important experience of Russo-American interaction in tackling complex critical problems. It could be said that the preparation of the Serb-Croat agreement would be a good model for continuing work on other aspects of the Yugoslav settlement, Vitaliy Churkin stressed.

The Zagreb agreement is of very great significance for the normalization of Serb-Croat relations. We expect that in two weeks' time there should follow a similar Serb-Croat meeting on economic questions, connected with vital supplies for the regions under UN control and adjacent territories. Then it will be possible to gradually go over to tackling the most difficult questions concerning their political status, Vitaliy Churkin said.

The high-ranking Russian diplomat recalled that the UN Security Council resolution extending the mandate of peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia stipulates the possibility of air support for the "blue helmets" in case of attacks. Since the UN troops are stationed on territories controlled by the Serbs, who have repeatedly been attacked by the Croatian side, this provision serves as a certain guarantee that incidents of this sort will be avoided in the future. Russia has its own interests here, since its peacekeeping battalion is deployed in one of these areas, and we want the interests of its safety to be met, V. Churkin noted.

The Russian Federation president's special envoy did not rule out the possibility that the next round of Serb-Croat talks on economic issues will also be held in the Russian Embassy in Zagreb.

Peacekeepers for Yugoslavia Includes Muslims

MK2903134094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Vladimir Svartsevich report under the "Peacekeeping" rubric: "Reinforcement for Russian Battalion. Russian Blue Helmets Off to the Balkans"]

[Text] A send-off ceremony for a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Armed Forces leaving for Yugoslavia was held at a military airfield in Ryazan. One-hundred strong, young volunteer servicemen comprising a staff company are to reinforce the 629th infantry battalion. Among them are men of 10 nationalities and religious faiths.

The volunteer airborne troops servicemen, according to the edict of the president and government of Russia, will be carrying out a peacekeeping mission in a world hotspot.

As Major General Nikolay Staskov, deputy commander of the MP [expansion unknown] of the airborne troops noted, the staff company includes a platoon of Muslim servicemen. This is being done at the request of the Russian Foreign Ministry in order to increase trust in our mission. In April, 200 more Russian peacekeepers will be sent to the East sector. Thus, the strength of our peacekeeping forces will be brought to 1,000 men.

As the airborne troops commanders have stated, Russian peacekeeping servicemen are paid $800 to $1,000 as before. The government of Russia will soon make a decision on raising the allowance. First of all it envisions the payment of a second allowance in rubles in Russia

and a number of other benefits, especially in social protection. For example, one year of service in Yugoslavia or in hotspots around the CIS will go on record as three years.

Iraqi Compliance With International Demands Urged

LD2903210994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Iraq should take more energetic steps to carry out the unimplemented demands of the international community. Only this will open up prospects for breaking the international isolation of Baghdad. The statement was made at a Tuesday briefing in Moscow by the official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin.

According to him, Moscow has taken notice of the report of the UN Security Council Commission for the Disarmament of Iraq saying that the destruction of the Iraqi arsenal of chemical weapons is entering the final stage. The Commission Chairman Ralph Ekeus said that by now the bulk of chemical weapons has been scrapped and the necessary barriers have been built for the prevention of their production in the future.

"On the whole, this can be considered as additional confirmation of Baghdad's readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in implementing Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf. Such changes in the Iraqi approach should be encouraged. The call was made by the Russian ambassador to the United Nations during a recent Security Council debate on anti-Iraqi sanctions," Karasin said.

In his opinion, to prevent the possibility of the reconstruction of the Iraqi military potential, the mechanism of long-term monitoring should be launched as soon as possible and a trial period declared to check its efficiency.

Political Issues

Black Box Retrieved From Plane Crash Raises Questions

LD2903192894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] As the IZVESTIYA newspapaer said today, initial information on the contents of the black boxes from the Russian Airbus that crashed in Siberia has been received from Paris. The catastrophe on 22 March killed 75 people.

[Unidentified correspondent over video of crash site] The results of the analysis of the contents of the black boxes are to be announced tomorrow. However it is already known today that despite earlier interpretations, the crew of the Airbus were alive and continuing to converse among themselves in the last few minutes of flight. Specialists will, therefore, have to refute the theory that the catastrophe came about as a result of instantaneous decompression. The Russian experts in Paris will attempt to identify the pilots' voices and draw up a precise transcript of the conversation.

At the same time, the other box, in which the functional parameters of all the components of the Airbus are recorded, is being decoded. The information retrieval process will probably take up until the end of this week, and the results of the decoding will be passed to members of the investigative commission. Only then will the final verdict be made.

Terrorist Act Not Ruled Out

LD3003091794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Shchegolev]

[Text] Paris March 30 TASS—Deciphering of flight recorders of the A-310 Airbus which crashed in Siberia taking a toll of 75 lives proved that the version about depressurisation of the plane was wrong.

However, an act of terrorism against the craft is not excluded so far, TASS learned from reliable sources among experts studying the "black boxes" of the craft.

Deciphering is carried out jointly by experts of the French Transport Ministry and their Russian colleagues.

Shumeyko Discusses Purpose of Meetings With Yeltsin

LD3003092494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0855 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—During their regular meetings, the leaders of the houses of the Russian Parliament and the president "look for approaches to basic decisions which are subsequently elaborated," Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko told journalists at a roundtable meeting here on Wednesday.

In response to an ITAR-TASS question about his meeting with Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday, Shumeyko remarked that such meetings are held periodically when the president needs to discuss some matters with lawmakers.

The Federation Council speaker is confident that the houses of parliament "should not be used as an instrument of the struggle for power." There is no sense in parliament's decision-making "for decision's sake".

Decisions made at the state level should be complied with, Shumeyko stressed, adding that it is easier to coordinate matters at the very first level of the decision making process. "Boris Yeltsin did not make any recommendations to the Federation Council," Shumeyko specified.

Touching upon the notorious coup scenarios, Shumeyko described them as an "attempt to undermine the situation in the country in order to catch fish in troubled waters." He believes that the situation in Russia is now stable enough, and that attempts to upset it by such methods look ridiculous and won't pan out.

Shumeyko Says Yeltsin 'Workaholic'

PM2903151794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 6

[Correspondent Maksim Chikin report under "INFORM" rubric: "Into Europe by the Front Door"]

[Text] Paris—Last week a Russian parliamentary delegation headed by Federation Council Chairman Viktor Shumeyko visited France at the Interparliamentary Union's invitation. At a press conference devoted to the visit's results the chairman reported that he had met with Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg.

"Past Russian parliamentarians," Shumeyko said, "have insisted that Russia must become a Council member because it is so big and great and must therefore have an exception made for it. We structured the discussion differently. If Russia meets the necessary criteria for admission, we will be glad to be accepted into the Council." The Council president replied that this question would most probably be decided after the parliament's summer recess.

Shumeyko said in response to the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent's question about Boris Nikolayevich's health that certain circles needed a campaign to discredit the president in order to destabilize the situation. According to him the president is a real "workaholic." He can get up at 0200 and work.

Commission To Formulate Mechanism for Civil Accord

LD3003114294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—A special commission is being set up to work out a mechanism for implementing the agreement on civil accord in Russia. The commission will consist of representatives of the Russian president, government, both chambers of the parliament, State Duma factions, as well as public and cultural figures, according to Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko.

The draft agreement says "civil accord should be perceived as a process to involve all forces of society, which support the principles laid in the agreement". Concrete issues are to be elaborated at round-table discussions and by ad-hoc work groups, the speaker told reporters on Wednesday.

Shumeyko stressed that the agreement should be implemented only in full compliance with the Russian Constitution and laws. The Conciliation Commission will be empowered to examine and make public cases of agreement violations by any side, and even to demand that the given side be excluded from the signatories.

The upper house speaker views the agreement on civil accord in Russia as a document of paramount political and social importance. But he warned against regarding this document as "a substition of the existing Constitution".

Shumeyko told reporters that the agreement had been put on the agenda of the Federation Council's session scheduled to open next week. He called to speed up work on the text, because "if we try to bring it to perfection, it may never see the light of the day", the speaker emphasised. He believes that the text of the draft agreement should be distributed among upper house deputies. If they agree to it, they may instruct the Federation Council speaker to take part in its filalizing in coordination with other structures. A similar procedure should take place in the parliament's lower house, as well as in all parties and movements, Shumeyko said.

Filatov on Local Elections, Early Presidential Elections

LD2903221594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1545 GMT on 29 March carries the "At First Hand" program featuring a nine-minute recorded interview with head of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov by an unidentified correspondent. The date and location of the interview is not given.

Asked about the poor turnout at the local elections, Filatov attributes it to the current hardship, antipathy, and disorientation of voters after Zhirinovskiy's success in the last elections and also to the apolitical mood in the cities and oblast capitals where the representative bodies of power tend to consist of representatives from the more politically active rural localities. Filatov points out the need for the president to define more precisely the powers of the bodies of local self-government, which are established in the constitution as separate from bodies of state power. He says that there were many meetings with city mayors regarding the local elections, and that "Yeltsin met halfway the numerous requests not to be rigid in fixing the dates for holding these elections, as was the case earlier in the spring of this year, to give the opportunity—as the ground work is done, as the awareness is awakened as to what kind of power the local level want to have—to complete this in the autumn. This is what he has done with this edict."

Filatov states that they have set themselves an April deadline to draw up the legislation and May for submitting to the State Duma the fundamentals for structuring local self-government.

Asked about the rumors of early presidential elections and the grounds for the rumors, Filatov says, "I can only see one reason: Many different candidates have appeared who very much want to try their strength and be elected president. There is absolutely no juridical basis for that." Filatov then goes on to list the various clauses of the constitution that support the president remaining in office for his full term.

Filatov then goes on to the presidential edict of 21 March appointing Yuriy Yarov as the coordinator of the Russian tripartite commission for regulating socio-economic relations. He stresses the importance of the commission's functions as a general mediator.

Asked about Yeltsin's intentions, Filatov says he is working intensively on agreements, preparing for his trip to Spain, and is set to deal with current problems. He adds that the president is in a good mood.

Government Apparatus Leader Kvasov Interviewed

PM2903134394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Interview with Vladimir Kvasov, leader of the Russian Federation Government Apparatus and Federal Minister, by unnamed correspondent; date and place of interview not stated: "The State and Its Apparatus"]

[Text] At a recent government Presidium session, Viktor Chernomyrdin, speaking of ways of reducing the expenditure part of the budget, noted that the state management apparatus has become unjustifiably swollen. Where has the state apparatus become "swollen?" What today is the position of state employees? Can the struggle for sectorial and departmental interests be shifted into the channel of civilized lobbying? At a ROSSIYSKIYE

VESTI correspondent's request Federal Minister Vladimir Kvasov, leader of the Russian Federation Government apparatus, considers these questions.

As for the reorganization of the Government apparatus, its reduction, the merging of departments, and the creation of new ones, it is still early to speak of the results of this work. Work is in full swing. If we are speaking of the state management apparatus, which has indeed over recent years come close to the million mark, then such an enormous increase occurred through the increase in the regions—in Russia's krays, oblasts, and rayons. After all, there are about 350,000 officials at rayon management level alone, as was mentioned by government head Viktor Chernomyrdin. And the federal organs' apparatus has not grown for several years and numbers about 35,000.

Thus the state apparatus has been "swollen" because of the regions, which under the Federation Treaty are independent in their decisions. The federal organs exercise less and less control over them and it remains for us only to "collate the statistics."

It s known that the main task of the government apparatus is to prepare its decisions and the second, no less important, is to monitor the fulfillment of these decisions. But naturally it is impossible to monitor all government instructions. After all last year alone there were nearly 48,000 of them. But the most important, on which the state of affairs in the national economy and other spheres depends, are monitored, and quite toughly.

As for lobbying, perhaps I shall say something almost criminal, but I myself have been lobbied. But... in a civilized manner. Fo our country the concept of lobbying and lobbying i self is something new. Lobbying is only emerging and has not yet assumed the form of legislative acts. perhaps it is for that reason that Russian lobbying is of an uncivilized nature. On the other hand, for instance, a deputy elected from some region to the State Duma has undoubtedly been lobbied. And that is understandable, even in purely human terms. Why was he elected if he not only will not represent his region's interest but will not "promote" them?

But when it is a case of "promoting" some document to the government to make it make an important decision and the document itself is raw and unfinished as they say, then that kind of lobbying is blatantly uncivilized and is based mainly on amicable relations with someone from the government leadership.

And in this connection we can dwell on work with ministries and departments. Demands on the preparation of documents submitted for the government's examination have now been made sufficiently tough. Incidentally, according to existing norms all documents which are to be examined by the government are unfailingly agreed on in advance with the ministry and department. Actually, under the existing situation, only an agreed document is examined in the government, and the role and task of the government apparatus is merely to legalize it and report it. But unfortunately a situation often takes shape in which an attempt is made by hook or by crook to "promote" an unfinished or, as we say, a "raw" document. At that moment people do not think of the problems which will unfailingly arise and could have various and sometimes grave consequences.

That is why the apparatus has now considerably toughened demands on documents of this nature. Unfinished documents are simply sent back, which of itself is already a serious warning.

Now about state employees. I' is no secret that there is always a problem with good and well qualified cadres, especially now when there is a temptation to get more money by working in commercial structures. But the president has signed the edict on introducing the statute on state service and the necessary normative documents are being elaborated to implement this statute. These are the fundamental legal documents giving a state employee certain guarantees for the entire period of his work in state service. And when they begin to operate the attitude toward the state employee will change fundamentally.

Has the government apparatus work style changed? Undoubtedly it has, for life does not stand still, everything is changing rapidly. Of course, work in the apparatus is complex and takes up almost all one's time. But if you succeed then you feel great satisfaction. Probably this can be said by anyone of his work to which a man actually devotes almost all his life.

Conservative Party's Ubozhko Dismisses Yeltsin as Wimp

MK2903103094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Maksim Shiryamov report under the "Party Life" rubric: "Everyone Is a Wimp But Me"]

[Text] "It is decisive people, not wimps [khlyupiki], who should run the country," Lev Ubozhko, leader of the Conservative Party, has said. On 27 March the party's third congress nominated the well known dissident as candidate for president.

At the initiative of Lev Grigoryevich himself, the congress demanded without too much talk that the results of the "antidemocratic and rigged" elections for the Federal Assembly be annulled and the amnestied coup plotters be put back behind bars. Most important, the "communist" Chernomyrdin government should resign and presidential elections should be called to elect a new head of state.

It turned out that Boris Yeltsin is "soft as wax" and that he "has been continuing Gorbachev's line toward appeasing the reactionary forces and has struck a secret deal with the criminal Rutskoy and the fascist Zhirinovskiy." According to Ubozhko, "Messrs. Yeltsin and Zhirinovskiy go to the baths together once a month, and

after taking a steam bath they would not mind playing a game of checkers." As a result, it turned out that "the king does not have anything on," and what he does is to sacrifice his allies, apparently confusing checkers with give-away.

Any "infection," Lev Grigoryevich thinks, should be nipped in the bud by introducing presidential rule. He promises to mark his coming to power by the immediate firing or even exiling of all members of the old party nomenklatura who sabotage reform. As for racketeers, he promised to get rid of them within a month by arming all entrepreneurs to a man.

Democratic Russia Leader on Split With Gaydar Party

LD2903151494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yekaterina Zhilyakova]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—"The party, now being formed on the basis of the Democratic Russia movement, will be closer to the centre of the political scale than the party that is now being set up by Yegor Gaydar on the basis of the 'Russia's Choice' movement, which will sooner be liberal-conservative," co-chairman of the Democratic Russia movement Lev Ponomarev told ITAR-TASS.

In Ponomarev's opinion, efforts to guarantee the social protection of the population will be the main distinction of the Democratic Russia party. The Democratic Russia movement has still not officially announced its reorganisation into a party. However, the decision of the latest plenary meeting of its council of representatives to draw up lists of movement members should be regarded as a step in this direction. The question of whether to set up a party or not will be decided by the movement's congress. It was decided to leave unchanged the principle of collective membership and the status of supporters, not wishing to be registered as official members, until the convocation of the congress. The regional organisations of the Democratic Russia movement will independently decide on the extent of their participation in the formation of local party cells.

Ponomarev makes no bones of the fact that this decision was prompted by Gaydar's initiative to set up a party. The movement, set up about three years ago, has for a long time provided massive backing to the Russian reforms. It campaigned in one bloc with the "Russia's Choice" during the recent elections. Nevertheless, Democratic Russia has still not been offered to become part and parcel of Gaydar's party, which, in Ponomarev's opinion, would have been quite natural.

"We have given altruistic support to the Gaydar government for a very long time and have even backed his shock therapy idea. However, both they and the leadership of Russia as a whole have failed to do the main thing—explain to the nation the essence of the ongoing reforms. They also forgot to guarantee the social protection of the Russian citizens," Ponomarev said, assessing the looming split between the two previously main allies of the democratic camp. However, he stressed that members of the Democratic Russia movement still wished to rally all the democrats, including the "Russia's Choice", "Yavlinskiy-Boldarev-Lukin", "December 12", and the Democratic Russia parliamentary factions.

Time will show whether these former allies will become rivals or not, and how effective the movement will be in its new form. In the meantime, only about one thousand people have signed up as members of the Democratic Russia movement during the few days of registration in ten municipal constituencies. According to Ponomarev's assessment, at least 40-50 thousand Russians may join the new party.

Yeltsin Leads Poll; Followed by Zhirinovskiy

MK2903125094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 27 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Savelyev, VTSIOM sociologist: "Yeltsin Is in the Lead Again"]

[Text] In an express MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS-commissioned poll of approximately 1,300 residents of the capital, conducted by the Moscow branch of the All-Russian Center for Public Opinion Research [VTSIOM], the answers to one of the questions in the survey—"Who would you like to see as president of Russia?"—were distributed as follows (in percentages):

B. Yeltsin—14
V. Zhirinovskiy—5
G. Yavlinskiy—5
Ye. Gaydar—4
A. Sobchak—3
A. Rutskoy—3
M. Gorbachev—3
V. Chernomyrdin—1
Other—17
Not sure—45

B. Yeltsin as Russia's president is more often the choice of people in the arts, pensioners and women in general, persons over 55 with incomplete higher and higher education, and those who were active in the 12 December 1993 elections and voted on party slates for Russia's Choice and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord.

V. Zhirinovskiy as president is relatively more often the choice of the military and police, managers at various levels, workers in commercial structures, men in general (twice more often than women), persons under 40 with secondary education, and those who were very active in the elections and voted predominantly for Zhirinovskiy's and Travkin's parties.

G. Yavlinskiy as president is more often the preference of the military and police and people between age 25 and

40 in general, with higher education, who took part in the elections at the average Moscow level and voted for Yabloko.

Ye. Gaydar as president would be preferred more often by students, employees in commercial structures, arts and non-arts specialists, persons under age 55 with incomplete or complete higher education who were active in the elections and cast the most votes against the political associations offered in party slates and for Russia's Choice.

The other "presidential candidates" had an insignificant number of supporters in this poll, which does not allow analysis of their socio-demographic makeup.

Yeltsin Sets Up Body To Liaise With Parties

PM2903120194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Mar 94 First Edition p 4

["Edict of the Russian Federation President 'On the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations' and Statute 'On the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations'"]

[Text]

Edict of the Russian Federation President "On the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Department for Collaboration With Parties and Public Associations"

For the purposes of ensuring all-round and effective collaboration between the Russian Federation president and political parties and public organizations, I decree:

1. That a Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations comprising 15 individuals be set up within the Russian Federation Presidential Administration.

2. That the appended Statute on the Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations is ratified.

3. That Valeriy Aleksandrovich Shchegortsov be appointed chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations.

4. That the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration shall ratify the structure and official membership of the Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Kremlin
[Dated] 21 March 1994

No. 560.

Statute "On the Russian Federation Presidential Administration Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations"

I. General Provisions.

1. The Russian Federation Presidential Administration Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations (henceforth referred to as the Department) is a structural subunit of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration.

2. The legal basis for the Department's activity consists of the Russian Federation Constitution, Russian Federation laws, edicts and instructions issued by the Russian Federation president, and this statute.

II. Tasks of the Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations.

3. The Department's main tasks are:

a) to effect collaboration between the Russian Federation president and political parties, professional and creative unions, ethnic, women's, youth, and other social organizations and movements, and religious denominations;

b) to bring the basic provisions of the policy of the Russian Federation president to the attention of political parties, public associations, and religious denominations, and to explain various decisions to them;

c) to gather and collate the proposals and initiatives of political parties, public associations, and religious denominations, and the opinions of their leaders on questions pertaining to the policy of the Russian Federation president and the activity of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration;

d) to inform the Russian Federation president and the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration of the main processes and events in the sphere of sociopolitical life, and the state of public opinion within the Russian Federation population on the most important questions of religious policy;

e) to elaborate and submit plans and measures for examination by the Russian Federation Presidential Aides Service and the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration, with the involvement of the Russian Federation president, the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration, and political parties, and in conjunction with public associations, and religious denominations;

f) to conduct together with the Organizational Department of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration measures involving the Russian Federation President, the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration, and representatives of political parties, public associations, and religious denominations;

g) to coordinate activity between the Russian Federation Presidential Aides Service, subunits of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration, and the Russian Federation Government Apparatus in the sphere of collaboration with parties, public associations, and religious denominations;

h) to assist in the running of the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation President;

i) to analyze the activity and program documents of political parties, public associations, and religious denominations, to forecast the development of political events from the perspective of collaboration between the Russian Federation president and the specified parties, public associations, and religious organizations, and to prepare the appropriate expert materials for the designated questions for the Russian Federation president and the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration;

j) at the behest of the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration to consult representatives of Russian Federation Presidential Administration structural subunits on questions of collaboration with political parties, public associations, and religious denominations in the sphere of the basic areas of activity of the structural subunits in question;

k) to collaborate with foreign parties, movements, public organizations, and cultural societies of compatriots living outside the Russian Federation.

III. Safeguarding the Activity of the Department for Collaboration with Parties and Public Associations

4. In order to implement the tasks entrusted to it, the Department has the right:

a) to request under the established procedure any necessary information from state bodies, institutions, organizations, political parties, public associations, and religious denominations;

b) to convey under the established procedure any necessary information to state bodies, institutions, organizations, political parties, public associations, and religious denominations;

c) to obtain under the established procedure decisions from Russian Federation state bodies on issues within the Department's jurisdiction;

d) to use Russian Federation Presidential Administration and Russian Federation Government Apparatus information data bases, and also, under the established procedure, the data bases of the central bodies of the federal executive power of the Russian Federation Federal and the bodies of executive power of Russian Federation components;

e) to use state, including government, communications systems;

f) to conduct official correspondence with state and nonstate bodies and organizations on issues relating to the running of the Department;

g) to organize conferences, consultations, "roundtables," and other events with the participation of representatives of political parties, public associations, and religious denominations;

h) to employ specific experts on a contract basis in order to fulfill analytical and expert tasks according to a schedule ratified by the Russian Federation Presidential Administration leader.

5. Material-technical, legal, information, and other provision for the Department's activity is implemented by the relevant subunits of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration;

IV. The leadership of the Department for Collaboration With Parties and Public Associations.

6. The department is led by a chief appointed and dismissed by the president of the Russian Federation.

7. The Department chief has deputies.

Department staff are appointed and dismissed on the recommendation of the Department chief by the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration.

V. The rights and duties of the chief of the Department for Collaboration With Parties and Public Associations

8. The Department chief guides Department activity and bears responsibility for its results, and he is directly subordinate to the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration.

9. The Department chief:

a) submits the structure, official membership, and recommendations for the appointment of Department staff to the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration for ratification;

b) defines his deputies' duties and ratifies the official instructions of Department staff;

c) sends Department staff on business trips under the established procedure;

d) signs official documentation within the Department's jurisdiction;

e) under the established procedure, recommends incentives for Department staff.

10. in the process of collaboration with political parties, public associations, and religious denominations the Department chief is the authorized representative of the leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Administration.

Poltoranin on 'Zionist Lobby', Yeltsin's Health

JN3003111994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
29 Mar 94 p 16

[Report by Salam Musafir in Moscow]

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the information policy and media committee [title as published] at the Russian parliament, says the growing audacity of pro-Zionist and pro-Israel circles in Russia is such that they are pursuing a systematic campaign against the Russian people that could conceivably culminate in horrible massacres.

A close political aide to President Boris Yeltsin, Mr. Poltoranin said in an interview with AL-RA'Y: I fear the Russian people may lose their patience with this filthy effort. While the Russian people have the capacity to endure hunger, misery, and deprivation, they will not remain silent for long when Zionists trample their national pride underfoot through the news media they are seeking to control.

In a a recent television appearance, Poltoranin recalled, he said that by speaking the language of the Jewish concentration camps, the Zionists are fueling so-called anti-Semitism in Russia. By temperament, the Russian people, he emphasized, do not discriminate against others on ethnic, racial, or religious grounds. These circles, however, are trying our people's patience. If a massacre should take place, the Zionist lobby active in the media must take the blame in full. The Zionist circles have gone too far in insulting the Russian national dignity, he added.

Poltoranin disclosed that the salary of the Russian television Hebrew correspondent is paid by the Israeli Government and so it was not surprising that his reports have an anti-Arab and pro-Israel slant. When I intimated to the Russian television's director my surprise that the cash-strapped station had no correspondents in the country's provinces, while it maintained one in Israel, he revealed to me that the latter gets his pay from Israel.

This affair, which as a Russian parliamentary committee chairman I will not condone, is legally and politically insulting to Russia's national dignity and prestige, Mr. Poltoranin said.

He would keep the fight against these circles, which he regretted are seeking to isolate President Yeltsin after they secured influential positions within his entourage.

I am confident that Mr. Yeltsin will soon heed the danger this represents, and will come to recognize that a halt must be called to the Zionist-inspired defamation campaign against Russian national pride.

He indicated that by April, the Russian parliament will pass a law regulating the activities of the media organs, particularly the competing radio and television stations, which, he said have turned into tools manipulated by the Zionist lobby. The parliament, he added, will decree the formation of a federal, central consultative council to administer radio and television.

There is a consensus in parliament and an initial acceptance by Mr. Yeltsin that I take charge of this council. We will then put things in order and ban this feverish activity, because Russia will not countenance becoming an occupied country.

At the parliament's initiative, a committee was formed to look into where the money came from to fund anti-Arab and anti-Russian television programs, Mr. Poltoranin disclosed. Let me tell you that we will not have our media channels turn into mouthpieces for cheap Zionist propaganda, he added.

I asked him about Yeltsin's feelings toward what is happening in Russia. Poltoranin said that by virtue of many complex—both objective and subjective—factors, President Yeltsin is suffering from symptoms of a lack of concentration, more precisely drift, because the situation is far removed from the way he had hoped would turn out two years ago when he launched his economic reform program.

Two years ago, Poltoranin continued, I put forward to Mr. Yeltsin a moderate, sober, gradualist reform plan to lead up to a full- fledged market economy. Gaydar, on the other hand, proposed a shortcut, which Yeltsin, for purely personal reasons, adopted and, which, in the end proved a failure and produced serious political and social eruptions that the president is now seeking to contain lest there be a total collapse. Yeltsin's awakening came rather too late, which, has, for the past months, put him in a depressed state of mind that I have watched at close range. It has affected his health considerably.

Poltoranin said the president's illness is not a secret. He has been suffering from an acute infection of the brain vessels for several years. He has always complained of this. Naturally, his case is exacerbating with age. He added: Still, I do not think it is a hopeless case, although it affects his vigor and activity in one way or another. He added: Until recently, we have been practicing tennis with the president, his favorite hobby. I think he needs more rest. Poltoranin said what is more serious in the president's latest conduct is that he listened to tendentious advisers and shut himself off from the people because his entourage does not provide him with correct information on what is taking place in the country.

Russia will see large-scale labor strikes after the formation of regional and federal committees all over the country. These committees will first demand early presidential elections, or more accurately, the dismissal of Yeltsin. Actually, these strikes are legal because the workers have not received their salaries for months. The commercial establishments, like Moost [name as transliterated], which finances several Zionist television programs, confiscates the state budget funds and uses them in commercial deals. After making huge profits, it pays a small part of the wages and salaries which, in turn, lose their purchasing power due to inflation. Thus, these

establishments play a major destructive role, protected and supported by ministers in the government and by Ilyushin, the president's close aide who represents the interests of the ruling establishment.

Regrettably, the president, due to the objective and personal factors I have mentioned, does not have an accurate or clear idea about what is going on around him. But when the street factor simmers and popular anger bursts out as a result of these policies, it will be too late to do anything. He added: Popular pressure may lead to early elections and this is something the president is not giving due consideration right now.

Poltoranin said Gaydar's parliamentary bloc, Russia First, is a political movement with no future. Elaborating, he said: The bloc is suffering from a major split that will surface within the next few weeks. This bloc includes opportunists seeking senior positions. It also includes sincere deputies who blame it for its inactivity and unclear political and economic programs. Those deputies will form their own parliamentary bloc. Once they have done so, I expect them to dismiss Gaydar and the small group supporting him.

The Russian national factor also plays a role in the collapse of Russia First because Gaydar refuses to deal with sincere Russians. He prefers to deal with educated Moscovites. These include many representatives of the lobby to which I have referred. He said he personally does not desire a split in Russia First, but reality is stronger than wishes.

In his interview with AL-RA'Y, Poltoranin strongly condemned the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron and said: The bestial action perpetrated by an occupation settler was not a transient incident. The regime that sanctioned the horrible massacre should be taken to account because Israeli policy, which is hostile to the rights of the Arabs of Palestine, is fertile soil for acts of repression, terrorism, and the killing of innocent people. He indicated he will ask the Russian parliament to discuss the situation in the Middle East and draw up a sound policy for fruitful cooperation with the Arab states.

He added: I said on more than one occasion that the Russian Foreign Ministry policy in the region is limping along on Western legs and that Russia should adopt an independent policy based on its national interests in the region, which is an area of important strategic geopolitical interests for our country. Russia has relinquished its interests in the Middle East to accommodate the aims of those forces that harbor evil to Russia and the Arabs.

He said: The West, led by the United States, offered Russia nothing but bad advise. It is occupying positions Russia has abandoned one after another. Russia has only one option, namely, alliance with the Arab states and the Pacific Ocean states so an effective political and economic alliance can be established to end to the imbalance in world power and to confront the U.S. hegemony and the chauvinist expansionist U.S. policy in the world.

Concluding, Poltoranin said Russia should toll the alarm in the Security Council vis-a-vis Israel's possession of nuclear weapons because the Israeli nuclear factor threatens the national security of Russia as well as that of the Arabs. He said: Using double standards in dealing with states' possession of weapons of mass destruction should be terminated.

Journalists See State Control in Draft Media Law

MK2903102094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Lidiya Lukyanova report: "We Are Threatened With a 'Typist's Option'"]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Russian Journalists Union has decided periodically to hold journalistic hearings: As of now it will thus discuss draft government laws and resolutions which regulate the life and activity of the press, as well as conflicts related to the privatization or corporatization of media outlets. Hearing organizers intend to enforce the presence of both sides concerned: authors of the documents and those who will have to live by them, as well as experts.

Russian Journalists Union Chairman Vsevolod Bogdanov thus substantiated the need for joint discussions:

"When it concerns ourselves, the journalists are known to swing their fists after a fight, that is to say, when a draft has already become law or a resolution been passed. It is always more difficult to remedy or change anything than to prevent in good time a mistake from occurring."

The first hearing took place at the Journalists' House on 25 March. It discussed propositions for creating a Russian federal TV and radio broadcasting service. In the expression of Aleksey Simonov, who presided over the discussion, this document seems to be roaming, moving about the government and Duma offices, but all attempts to find and invite its authors for the debate have proved futile. The authors prefer to remain anonymous. Thus, two Ostankino TV and Radio Company chiefs, Valentin Lazutkin and Aleksandr Yakovlev, have denied its paternity. Speakers cited abundantly the absent Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev, who had assured them that he had not endorsed any such draft or presented it to the State Duma or the government. Yakovlev described this draft as a typist's option.

It needs to be made clear: a very highly placed typist and moreover very ambitious, to the point of diktat which was established over TV during the rule of the CPSU Central Committee. In other words, again censorship, monopoly of information and all the rest of it. If the proposed draft is approved, something like the Vremya program will reappear on TV, excluding from the air waves any other news programs. And not even a trace of competition. Enough!...

The participants in the discussion made this conclusion: It is necessary for the journalists to work out and propose to the lawmaker a mechanism for preparing all documents bearing on press activity. Without the participation of the sides concerned and behind the backs of TV and radio journalists, it is impossible to elaborate draft laws regimenting their work conditions in a rule-of- law state.

The Russian Journalists Union leadership has been tasked to make this point of view known to the two branches.

Military Issues

Defense Ministry Denies Biological Weapons Development

LD2903204294 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1943 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] At the Information and Press Department of the Russian Defense Ministry it has been said that the SUNDAY TIMES report referring to anonymous intelligence sources on the creation in Russia of a new biological weapon does not correspond to the facts.

Lieutenant General Valentin Yevstigneyev, deputy commander of troops for radiation shielding and chemical and biological warfare defense, stated that in accordance with the Russian president's Edict No. 390, dated 11 April 1992, all work running counter to the requirements of the 1972 convention banning biological weapons has been halted.

General Says Charges 'Groundless'

LD2903213394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Deputy head of Russian troops for chemical and biological defenses General Valentin Yevstigneyev has described as groundless any suspicion about Moscow's violation of the international ban on the development, production or storage of biological weapons.

He was commenting on a Sunday Times publication which alleged, referring to intelligence sources and three Russian "defectors," that the Russian Defence Ministry was engaged in the development of biological weapons behind Yeltsin's back.

Yevstigneyev does not consider the paper's report unusual given the background of continued Western accusations against Russia concerning the developing of such weapons. He said that in the past, such campaigns were timed to coincide with major international talks on banning biological or chemical weapons in an effort to divert attention from the West's own programs which were in violation of the 1972 convention.

The general said the Sunday Times publication had emerged in the run up to a session by a preparatory committee intended to clear the ground for a special conference for measures to verify the compliance with the 1972 convention. Moscow is expected to continue work on possible verification measures at that session, Yevstigneyev said.

General Further Refutes Accusations

PM3003084294 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 3

[Remarks by Lieutenant General of Medical Services Valentin Ivanovich Yevstigneyev, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Radiation, Chemical, and Biological Protection Forces, "at the request of the Russian Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate": "The Military Do Not Deceive Their Commander in Chief"]

[Text] The UK newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES published an article the other day which asserts, citing anonymous intelligence sources and the testimony of three "defectors," that the Russian Defense Ministry is carrying out work on a program for the creation of biological weapons without the knowledge of the country's president.

At the request of the Russian Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate, Lieutenant General of Medical Services Valentin Ivanovich Yevstigneyev, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Radiation, Chemical, and Biological Protection Forces, comments on these assertions.

[Yevstigneyev] First of all I wish to note that the continuing campaign in the West to accuse Russia of carrying out work on the creation of biological weapons is patently intended to divert public attention from their own programs which contravene the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons.

As is well known, Russia advocates the setting up of a large-scale mechanism for verification of compliance with this convention. But such a mechanism is evidently not in the interests of those who are continuing to improve a scientific, technical, and industrial potential which could be used for the production of biological weapons.

We have observed that peaks in the activeness of this campaign coincide, as a rule, with major international talks concerning the 1972 Convention. The present press item is no exception. It came out on the eve of a session of the preparatory committee for a special conference to examine possible measures for verification of compliance with the 1972 Convention, at which the Russian side intends to continue work aimed at setting up a mechanism for verification of compliance with the said treaty.

As for the accusations against the Russian Defense Ministry, I wish to remind the author of the SUNDAY TIMES item that in accordance with Edict No. 390 of the President of the Russian Federation, 11 April 1992,

all work contrary to the requirements of the 1972 Convention was stopped. Verification of the fulfillment of the said edict on Russian territory is carried out by the Committee on Convention Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons under the President of the Russian Federation.

In 1993 amendments were made to legislation, making provision for criminal accountability for the development, production, acquisition, or storage of biological weapons.

Every year our country submits to the United Nations an exhaustive report on its biological facilities and activity associated with protection against biological weapons. Russia's biological facilities, including those belonging to the Defense Ministry, have repeatedly been visited by representatives of the mass media and the local authorities and by foreign experts.

Back in November 1992 an independent commission of leading Russian scientists and foreign experts visited the Institute of Ultrapure Biological Products, at which the United States and Britain suspected that work was being carried out on the "superplague" mentioned in the article. The commission found the institute's activity to be fully in accordance with the requirements of the 1972 Convention. Immediately following the completion of the commission's work, the U.S. and British representatives also voiced no complaints about the work being carried out at the Institute.

So any suspicions concerning violations by Russia of the ban on the development, production, or storage of biological weapons are completely unfounded.

Karasin: Allegations 'Surprising'

LD2903150694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1336 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Krylovich and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar—Reports in British mass media about continued work on the development of biological weapons in Russia are to say the least surprising. Grigoriy Karasin, director of Foreign Ministry information and press department, stated this at today's briefing at the Foreign Ministry press center.

He said that in September 1992 the governments of three countries (Russia, the United States, and the UK) adopted a joint statement envisaging a complex of measures to allay the parties' concern over abidance by the 1972 convention banning biological weapons. As part of the implementation of these accords, U.S. and British experts have visited four nonmilitary biological facilities in Russia. The experts' conclusions by no means correspond with the claims made in the British press, Grigoriy Karasin noted.

It is regrettable that "information" of this kind is appearing at a time when Russia, the United States, and the UK, who are the depositories of the convention banning biological weapons, are making joint efforts to call a special convention on possible verification measures as early as this year, Grigoriy Karasin noted.

'Rumors' Seen as Politically Motivated

LD2903170094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1601 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS—Biological arms rumors initiated by foreign mass media have political coloring, Russian academician Valentin Fedorov told ITAR-TASS here today.

According to the academician, recent open hearings at the State Duma on chemical disarmament excluded a possibility of speculations on this issue. He said that specialists disclosed all secrets of the "classified arms".

A refutation was also published by the Russian Defence Ministry, which clearly said that Russia does not develop or produce biological arms.

Academician Fedorov and other experts wonder why "sensations" casting aspersions on the Russian reputation appear at a time of Russian stabilization. Ecological problems are mos. often used in these "exposures". Rumors claiming alleged Russian holding of ecologically-dangerous weapons were spread under the pretext of environmental protection. According to well-informed sources, another attack to use consequences of Russian nuclear programs is being prepared.

In the opinion of specialists, chemical disarmament problems are concentrated around technologies for elimination of combat poison gases. They have an economic competition basis, and biological arms problems have a clear political coloring.

'Hoax' on Weapons Development Viewed

LD2903191894 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] A spokesman for Russia's Defense Ministry flatly refused on Monday [28 March] the reports of Western media on the Russian military allegedly going ahead with the development of biological weapons. Our observer Vladislav Kozyakov has some details on this subject:

A spokesman for the information and press department made a statement from the Defense Ministry. He told ITAR-TASS that Russia is neither developing nor producing biological weapons. The statement was causing a sensation but absolutely groundless reports were made these days by some Western newspapers. For example, the SUNDAY TIMES published by the London-based TIMES produced a horrible picture alleging Russia has at its disposal some super plague powder which can

destroy half a million people if 440 (?tonnes) of it were air dropped. What is more, the newspaper reported that the West has no antidote for this agent. It goes without saying that the report provided no evidence to prove this sensation. It couldn't be otherwise, since there is no such agent whatsoever. The author of the article, sent from Washington, Mr. James Adams, refers to the testimonies which had allegedly been made by three Russian defectors. One of them gave some information to the CIA, the other two did so to the British secret service. The names of these persons remain of course unidentified—as a result nobody can verify whether these people really exist.

The developments remind one of the practices utilized by special services during the Cold War period, when the East and the West were competing for who is better at darkening its potential enemy. It was just at that time when the fabrications were spread all over the world about the AIDS virus having been released from the Pentagon laboratories to spread around the globe.

One can only wonder why even now the mass media is giving reports with misleading information capable of sowing distrust in international relations, the more so that the current pattern of relations between Russia, the United States, and Britain allows these countries to resolve their own problems—especially those involved in mass destruction weapons—proceeding from mutual frankness. It was a tripartite Russian-American-British agreement to achieve this concluded as early as 1992. [sentence as heard] The document of the agreement clearly stipulates all the sides concerned can inspect the facilities which had been used for the production of biological weapons.

The main question is: Why did this hoax about Russian biological weapons come into being just now? One of the possible answers to it can be found in the SUNDAY TIMES itself. This is evidence that some people are trying to create suspicion among Russian leadership. Could it be for this very reason that the conclusion can be drawn some Defense Ministry officials could ostensibly be deceiving the president in this respect?

However, another possibility is also quite plausible. In Washington and London there appear again some groups which would like to damage the prestige of Russia as a great democratic and peace-loving power. At the same time they are eager to put a fly into the ointment of the current process when constructive partnership among Washington, Moscow, and London is now gaining strength.

Chemical Weapon Destruction Research Going 'Poorly'

PM2803075394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksey Vorotnikov: "Chemists' Needs Not Understood"]

[Text] Saratov Oblast—Scientists at the State Institute of Organic Synthesis Technology, which is in the settlement of Shikhany in Saratov Oblast, have discovered an interesting method of destroying chemical weapons. They have proposed using toxic agents as raw materials for the production of materials needed by the national economy. In particular, the Volga scientists plan to obtain arsenic from lewisite. They have managed to organize the production of medicines and household chemical products here.

However, the funding of research work in the destruction of lethal weapons is proceeding poorly. Last year, just 17 million rubles were allocated for this purpose. The chemical workers are bewildered. How can this be?

For several months now staffers at the institute have not received their wages and the enormous collective has been forced to take administrative leave without pay. How can there be any talk of getting rid of weapons when there is no money to pay for their destruction?

Arms Industry Ready To Cooperate With Old Partners

LD3003133994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1109 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The head of the Russian state-owned Rosvooruzheniye company Victor Samoylov believes that this year the country can sell armaments and military hardware worth $20 Bn. Last year the figure was around $2 Bn.

In a Tuesday interview with Interfax Samoylov said that Russia did not lose the arms markets of the former Soviet Union and is ready to expand cooperation in this sphere with traditional partners: Arab countries, India, China, African and East European nations.

According to Samoylov, the volume of sales has been falling due to the form of payments. Since 1991 Russia has been demanding immediate payment and has stopped giving credits to countries for importing its armaments.

He said that last year the U.S. sold approximately the same amount of weapons at the same terms as Russia. "The $30 Bn volume of trade the Americans speak of is credited," he said.

Samoylov added that the USSR offered credits for 7 to 40 years for the purchase of its weaponry. He also said that Russia lost between 10 and 15 billion dollars because of UN sanctions against its old partners: Libya and Iraq. He said Western states received compensation from the United Nations and the IMF for breaking off economic ties with the two countries. According to the head of Rosvooruzhenie, only Russia was left without compensation.

Defense Ministry Clarifies Kuril Troop Withdrawal

PM2903114794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA-INFORM report under the "Border" rubric: "Kurils Apparently Shoot Their Bolt"]

[Text] The report from Viktor Ilyukhin, chief of the State Duma Security Committee, about Yeltsin's directive to prepare a schedule for the withdrawal of Border Guard Troops from the territory of the South Kuril Islands has turned into a sensation through the military's efforts. The issue was clouded by the Russian General Staff Operations Directorate and Border Guard Troops High Command, which flatly denied the existence of such a directive, although the Far East Military District commander confirmed the report in a confidential conversation.

Our sources in the Defense Ministry did not deny the existence of the directive, but stressed that it is not a question of withdrawing Border Guard Troops but of preparing a schedule for withdrawing troops in the event of "unforeseen circumstances." The question of whether the decision to hand over the islands to Japan can be classed as "unforeseen circumstances" remained unanswered. It was approximately in this form that the "sensation" started making the rounds in the pages of the Western press.

Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, has now officially confirmed Ilyukhin's report. Since Cold War times a machinegun-artillery division has been stationed on the South Kurils, and it is this to which the president's directive evidently refers. A scandalous interpretation could have been avoided had the directive been immediately followed by explanations. Although one can understand the Defense Ministry—it is too "hot" a topic. The only deep-water strait which is a nuclear-powered submarine channel is located in the area of the South Kurils.

Concerns Over Kaliningrad 'Whipped Up' by Media

LD2903211594 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] An announcement by General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, that a special defense region will be created in Kaliningrad Oblast has provoked a wave of insinuations. This purely military issue, which is solely a matter of strengthening Russia's national security, is being whipped up by the European media.

In this connection, Yuriy Matochkin, head of administration in Kaliningrad Oblast, said the military in the amber region, together with their families, amounted to 10 percent of the population. After the defense region has been set up, the grouping of troops will number 26,000 people. This is considerably lower than allowed by the treaty on conventional arms in Europe.

Missile Incident Reveals 'Unsuitable' Troops

PM2903185594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Viktor Sapov report: "Scarier Than the Caribbean Crisis. Nuclear Missiles Were in Criminal's Control"]

[Text] Barnaul—An incident on a world scale occurred at a troop unit stationed in the vicinity of Barnaul. Private P., a native of Dagestan, shot a guard and seized a combat vehicle guarding missiles carrying nuclear warheads. You can imagine what the terrorist might have done had he reached the positions where the intercontinental ballistic missiles are held.

The regiment commander had difficulty persuading the soldier to surrender. Criminal proceedings have been instigated. But the conclusion is self-evident. Evidently, our valiant missilemen are having problems in obtaining fresh troops since unsuitable people are being admitted to secret installations.

Seventy Percent of Armed Forces Not Paid in Mar

LD2903211094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] A critical situation emerged in the Russian Armed Forces as officers and warrant officers did not receive their salaries. INTERFAX learned from sources close to the Russian Defense Ministry that the Finance Ministry had set aside only 30 percent of the amount needed. Therefore, about 70 percent of officers and warrant officers were left without their pay for March. Many of them had not received their salaries for February either.

Official Argues More Funds Needed for Military Hardware

LD2903121394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin told Interfax that the country's military doctrine made no sense unless cash was made available to buy military hardware. "In order to cut the funds for defense factories, the government-approved state defense contracts would have to be revised," he said.

Kokoshin said that the Defense Ministry needed nearly Rbs 28 trillion for purchases of military hardware in 1994 while the Finance Ministry was prepared to allocate one fifth of that amount.

He said that the Defense Ministry would press for its needs, in particular through the State Duma. He added that the ministry "had appropriate instructions on this score from the president and the prime minister."

Kokoshin listed numerous reasons for the shortage of funds in his ministry, notably slow restructuring of Russian industry, the need for it to maintain a large social role for its employees and low demand for the civilian production of converted defense factories. He said that defense production proper accounted for as little as 20 percent of the defense industry's output and there were no customers for the remaining 80 percent. "For this reason aircraft, ships, locomotives so needed by the railroad ministry and tank-trucks are stockpiling," he emphasized.

Air Force Cuts Training Due to Lack of Fuel

LD2903121694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Training flights have been considerably reduced at several air-defense units in the Far East, because of a shortage of fuel. The air-defense army headquarters told Interfax that unless fuel supplies are sorted out, fighter-interceptors will soon only be able to take off on an occasional basis and training plans will have to be cancelled altogether.

Use of Military Psychology in Armed Forces on Rise

OW3003004594 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 2230 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Interview with Major General S.I. Syedin, professor and doctor of psychology, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given; from the "Aty-Baty" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Sergey Ivanovich, you have devoted your entire life to the armed forces, in particular to military psychology. In recent years you headed the military psychology faculty at the Humanitarian Academy of the Armed Forces. What prospects do you see for military psychology in particular, and the use of psychology in the armed forces in general, while major reforms are being carried out in the army?

[Syedin] You cannot include military psychology among those sciences that make up the armed forces' methodological basis of construction. At the same time, we note that the armed forces cannot be built without military psychology. The historical experience of the Russian Army's development prior to 1917 indicates great attention was always paid to the mental state of servicemen. There was even a society of devotees of military affairs which published a magazine centered mainly on military psychology.

Presently, every unit has a psychologist, as do formations and groups. However, in my opinion the problem of creating a social and psychological service, and of the psychological system as a whole, has not been completely solved.

[Correspondent] Do the people who have been appointed as unit and formation psychologists fulfill the requirements in terms of their professional training? What is your opinion?

[Syedin] In answering this question and discussing this issue, I would like to relate what the purely official understanding of a psychologist is. In my opinion, a military psychologist is an officer who occupies the position and who has a state-approved diploma as a psychologist. As it turns out, presently the positions of psychologists are occupied by people who do not fully meet these requirements.

Personally, I have always supported the idea that any job should be done by a professional. The professional should know the results of his actions and work, and should predict its outcome. Much is presently being said and written about psychotropic weapons and making zombies out of people [zombirovaniye]. But these are still unresearched manifestations. I do not want to dispute it, but at the same time I would not like to see those who are professionally untrained dabbling in it.

[Correspondent] Presently, a large number of young men, former servicemen or active duty servicemen who have experienced extreme situations or participated in combat, have accumulated in our armed forces and state in general. Could military psychologists organize some form of assistance, some form of psychotherapeutic rehabilitation, for them? Can something be done for them along these lines today?

[Syedin] Our department has studied the experience of psychological rehabilitation abroad. The U.S. armed forces have a wealth of experience in this area. We know about the problems of Vietnam war veterans, and that there are 196 centers in the United States for the psychological rehabilitation of war veterans and their families.

In our armed forces, and in associated public services such as various committees for the social defense of servicemen and members of their families, this kind of purpose-oriented work is not carried out. At the same time, practical work by the staff and teachers of our department shows that to a great extent military psychology, particularly the psychology of a humanitarian, is capable of doing achieving this.

Federal Assembly

Zhirinovskiy Issues Warning to Nazarbayev, Others

LD2903145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] At a Tuesday news conference at the Russian State Duma the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy declared his determination to fight against "Kazakh, Uzbek, Kirgiz fascism and defend the Russian-speaking population." He promised to

respond "with such a blow that those countries will forget what civilization is" because they will be turned into "scorched wasteland with nobody to save." Only in this way will they learn not to humiliate Russians and pay for all their atrocities at once.

Zhirinovskiy emphasized that with the present attitude to Russians in Kazakhstan he would never let President Nursultan Nazarbayev "even approach the border of the Russian state." He called Nazarbayev a representative of a pseudo-state and said he would never sign any treaties or agreements with the man.

Speaking of the work of the Liberal-Democratic group in the Duma Zhirinovskiy described as its achievement the adoption of the amnesty decision. He was sorry, however, that he did not receive any official thanks from the former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy, the former security minister Viktor Barannikov or the former deputy interior minister Andrey Dunayev who were released from Lefortovo prison as a result of the amnesty.

Zhirinovskiy claimed that he received an expression of gratitude from the leader of the Russian National Unity movement Aleksandr Barkashov, the head of the Officers' Union Stanislav Terekhov and General Vladislav Achalov. "Not everyone proved thankful, perhaps someone should have been left in jail."

Zhirinovskiy claimed the credit for the latest foreign policy successes of the country related to the prevention of the bombings of Serbian positions around Sarajevo. He threatened the Foreign Ministry, which he described as a nest for CIA agents, that he would hold diplomats responsible for what they have done in the past two or three years.

He went on to accuse other parties in the Duma of stealing votes from his party during the elections. He claimed that at least 25 percent of votes were stolen at polling stations and given over "to such pseudo-parties as Russia's Choice and the Yavlinskiy bloc." According to Zhirinovskiy, some votes were also stolen from Communists, but while Communists are ready to forgive that, Liberal- Democrats will not. In the future he promised to hold politically responsible those who collected votes by fraud.

Zhirinovskiy forecast that in the 1996 parliamentary elections Liberal-Democrats would get not less than 300 out of 450 seats (40 percent lawyers, 40 percent economists, 20 percent Army and Navy representatives).

Zhirinovskiy invited all newspapers and broadcasting corporations as well as all political parties and movements to the congress of his party in Moscow this weekend. He estimated that the congress would cost Liberal-Democrats some Rbs 60 Mn.

Answering a question on why he insisted on the release of all inmates of Lefortovo, even though his potential rival in the presidential elections Aleksandr Rutskoy was among them, Zhirinovskiy said that he needs a strong competitor. "If there is no one beside me, there is no one to fight against and I get sour," the Liberal-Democratic leader said.

However, he did not think many people would vote for Rutskoy because he "constantly changes his political image and has betrayed his stand four or five times."

Zhirinovskiy stressed that the president should have given the party that won the elections the right to form a cabinet a long time ago. He claimed that cabinet members Chubays, Shokhin, Kozyrev and Shakhray are right in their fears about his possible transition to the Kremlin.

"On 12 December we already received a mandate to the Kremlin," he said.

Answering a question about Liberal-Democratic deputies Viktor Kobelev and Aleksandr Pronin, Zhirinovskiy said that last month both were expelled from the party and the party group in the Duma. He said that the party is not threatened with a split, and the fact that three or four people leave the party every year is a normal process.

"Annually all intelligence services of the world are trying to infiltrate us. This is an indicator of our strength," Zhirinovskiy believes.

He said the party is ready to sign the memorandum of accord proposed by the president, but the document is more likely to have a moral significance and it would be naive to think that civic peace will be restored immediately after its adoption.

Zhirinovskiy announced that during the first half of the year he plans to visit Norilsk, Yakutia, Magadan, Kamchatka, Sakhalin and the Far East as well as Finland and Strasbourg.

Holds News Conference at State Duma

LD2903201894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent on news conference given by LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy at the State Duma on 29 March; Zhirinovskiy's remarks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Video shows Zhirinovskiy at news conference]

[Zhirinovskiy] I am starting to go sour. I need an enemy, somebody to fight with. The Communists and the Democratic Russians are lying down—who can I fight with? I cannot kick a man when he is down, understand? There is nobody to fight.

[Correspondent] That is how the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader assessed the political power of his party today. [passage omitted] The first task of the

LDPR now is the struggle for the rights of Russians in the former Soviet Union, and, says Zhirinovskiy, this struggle will be merciless.

[Zhirinovskiy] We will use all the most effective means to defend our population, so that they will always [words indistinct] to touch citizens of the Russian state, always. There will only be a scorched desert left. There will be nothing left.

[Correspondent] Apart from that, the leader of the LDPR once more made a firm prediction for the geopolitical future of the former republics of the Soviet Baltic.

[Zhirinovskiy] You will get a governor general of the Baltic guberniya, a Russian, in the capital, in Riga, you will get a small town of Tallinn choking without light or heat, where Estonians will catch fish and eat them cold because there will be no electricity, and the town of Kaunas, the capital of the little Lithuanian state. You will definitely get that. A weak little national banner will flap in the wind over those two territories, Kaunas and Tallinn. [passage omitted]

Further on News Conference

LD2903223794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Video report by correspondent A. Dubnov on news conference given by LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in the State Duma on 29 March; from the "Vesti" newscast; Zhirinovskiy remarks recorded]

[Text] [Video shows Zhirinovskiy holding news conference] [Dubnov] In the State Duma building today a news conference by the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader took place which was devoted to the 5th Congress of the Liberal Democrats opening on 2 April. After declaring categorically that this would be the congress of the party whose line was no less than the whole of our people had chosen, Mr. Zhirinovskiy went on to boast about the two main victories of his party. The first was the amnesty:

[Zhirinovskiy] We were the main instrument for passing the amnesty. The political amnesty in the first place. The initiative for a criminal amnesty did not come from us.

[Dubnov, over Zhirinovskiy's voice] There is now someone we can thank for the greatest event in the history of the Russian parliament of the end of the 20th century, as Vladimir Volfovich put it. Although we will note that any criminal can now claim that he committed a crime at that moment for political reasons—both the sniper who fired into the crowd and the marauder who robbed a savings bank. The second mighty victory of the LDPR lies in the fact that, in the words of its leader, the party has averted war in Serbia by announcing to those countries whose pilots were getting ready to bomb Serbian troops that return bomb strikes would be carried out against their capitals. Getting more and more worked up, Mr. Zhirinovskiy once again confirmed his readiness to defend the rights of Russians in the Near Abroad using highly unambiguous methods.

[Zhirinovskiy] We will respond with such a terrible blow that these peoples will forget what civilization means. There will be a scorched desert there.

[Dubnov] We can now put a question to the law enforcement agencies—does this outburst come under the article on appeals to war and arousing interethnic strife?

Duma Decree on Application of Amnesty Provisions

PM2903142194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree No. 76-1 GD, signed by State Duma Chairman Rybkin and dated 25 March 1994: "On Certain Questions Relating to the Application of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decrees 'On the Declaration of an Amnesty in Connection with the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution' and 'On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty'"]

[Text] In connection with questions that have arisen in the practice of applying the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decrees "On the Declaration of an Amnesty in Connection with the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution" and "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty," the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

1. The criminal cases against persons who, during the events referred to in Paragraph 1 of the decree "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty," committed criminal acts with no direct relation to these events shall not be closed.

2. Persons convicted of the crimes stipulated in Paragraph 3 of the decree "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty" shall be exempted from terms of imprisonment, irrespective of the term handed down and the amount of time already served.

3. Under Paragraph 4 of the decree "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty" the amnesty shall be applied to persons who committed crimes up to and including 31 December 1991.

4. Criminal cases brought under Article 92 Part 3, Article 93 Parts 2 and 3, and Article 93-1 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and referred to in Paragraph 4 of the decree "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty" shall be deemed closed on the basis of that paragraph.

5. The restriction stipulated in Paragraph 4 of the decree "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty" on applying the amnesty to persons convicted of the embezzlement of state and public property

through theft, larceny, robbery, or fraud shall apply solely to those convicted under Article 93-1 of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

6. Execution of Paragraph 4 of the decree "On the Declaration of a Political and Economic Amnesty" shall be the responsibility of the courts in the cases stipulated by Paragraph 1 Subparagraph B of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree "On the Procedure for Applying the Decree 'On the Declaration of an Amnesty in Connection with the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution.'"

7. Paragraph 1 Subparagraph B of the decree "On the Declaration of an Amnesty in Connection with the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution" shall apply to persons born before 26 February 1934.

8. Paragraph 3 of the decree "On the Declaration of an Amnesty in Connection with the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution" shall apply to male juveniles born not before 26 February 1976.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

[Dated] Moscow, 25 March 1994

No. 76-1 GD

Duma Orders Effort To Repair Rift With Chechen Republic

PM2903153594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree No. 75-1 GD, signed by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and dated 25 March 1994: "On the Political Settlement of Relations between Federal State Power Bodies and Chechen Republic Power Bodies"]

[Text] On the basis of the need for a political settlement of relations between the federal state power bodies and Chechen Republic power bodies, the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees that:

1. The Russian Federation president is instructed, in accordance with Article 80 of the Russian Federation Constitution:

- To take measures to bring about a political settlement of relations between federal state power bodies and Chechen Republic power bodies and to ensure their coordinated functioning and collaboration;
- To instruct the Russian Federation Government to hold consultations with representatives of power bodies and all political movements in the Chechen Republic with a view to overcoming the existing sociopolitical situation and, on the basis of consultations, to prepare a draft treaty demarcating areas of jurisdiction [predmety vedeniya] and the reciprocal delegation of powers between federal state power bodies and Chechen Republic state power bodies.

2. The holding of free elections to the Chechen Republic supreme power bodies and elections of Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council and State Duma deputies on Chechen Republic territory shall be considered a necessary basis for the signing of the aforesaid draft treaty.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

[Dated] Moscow, 25 March 1994

No. 75-1 GD

Duma Council Calls for Law on Regional Elections

PM2903121294 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "In the Russian Federation State Duma Council: Law on Elections Needed"]

[Text] Draw up a draft law on elections to regional representative organs of power and local self-government of the Russian Federation, the State Duma Council has issued that instruction to a number of parliamentary committees.

The decision was prompted by a letter to the chamber from the coordinating council of the "Democratic Russia" movement, citing numerous instances of violation of the Constitution and flouting of citizens' electoral rights in the course of the preparation and holding of the present elections in Russia's regions.

The opinion of the members of the chamber's council was unanimous: This "election sickness" can only be cured on the basis of a reliable legal foundation, which does not at present exist.

No 'Constructive Result' From N. Caucasus Debate

PM2903144194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Karkhanin: "Federation Council Urges Peace on Ossetians and Ingushetians"]

[Text] The Federation Council will continue to examine the situation obtaining in the state of emergency zone in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. This was reported by Vladimir Shumeyko, the chamber's chairman. According to him, "the question of the conflict between the Republics of North Ossetia and Ingushetia is very acute in nature and violates that supreme human right—the right to life."

Deputies instructed the Federation Council chairman to set up a special commission under the leadership of Ramazan Abdulatipov for further study and consideration of this issue. After this has been done, the commission is to submit its own proposals to the president.

Deputies intend to hold an enlarged session of the Security Council with the special commission's participation in order to make a final decision at the chamber's next session.

Vladimir Shumeyko stressed that many decisions had been made before but none of them had been carried out. Therefore, he stressed, it is "essential that all three branches of power—the Federation Council, the president, and the government—discuss this question and make a common decision."

The deputies present at the closed session adopted an appeal to the peoples of Ingushetia and North Ossetia. The document stresses the need for them to "lay down their arms and solve the problems built up over many years by peaceful means."

Thus, three days of debate in the upper chamber of parliament on how to settle the conflict have essentially failed to yield a constructive result. It has become clear to the participants in the session of the upper chamber of parliament that to think that the explosive situation in the North Caucasus will stabilize of its own accord would be like trying to fall asleep on a powder keg.

Rybkin on Civil Accord, Secret Services

MK3003101094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 1, 3

[Interview with State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin by Nikolay Rafayenko and Oleg Rubnikovich; place and date not given: "Ivan Rybkin: 'I Do Not Want To Be the Special Services' Advocate.' However, They Should Not Be Reformed Indefinitely Either, the State Duma Chairman Thinks"]

[Excerpts] [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Each country has its own national security concept on the basis of which it organizes the activity of its special services. Given that the Russian state security agencies are being reformed for the sixth time in the past two years, can one say that our national security concept has changed six times?

[Rybkin] As for Russia, we do have a concept. Reform is under way in the special services. Sometimes it is very painful, unfortunately. They say correctly that there is nothing more wasteful than reorganization. Special service staffers are probably realizing that. This sphere is very sensitive, so there is no need to go into particular detail regarding this subject. Russia must be securely covered from this flank regardless of political changes.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Each year our country is rocked by conflicts between the branches of power. Not long ago, the mass media carried reports about yet another coup allegedly designed to remove President Boris Yeltsin from power. There have been reports that this "version" was advantageous for some people in the government. What can you say in that respect?

[Rybkin] What I have is information required for my work as chairman of the State Duma. My main work today is the budget. The country is living without a budget for 1994. That won't do at all.

As for emergency scenarios. I think all of us have enough powers to act within the framework of the law, and effectively so, even in conditions of an all-encompassing crisis suffered by the economy. But this is possible only when there is civil peace in society. We must not let what happened on 4 October 1993 recur; 4 October was our common defeat.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] How realistic is the recurrence of that situation?

[Rybkin] I think that given the collaboration between the authorities that has currently been emerging, its chances are nil. If, of course, the collaboration holds out. The president, the chairman of the government, the chairmen of the State Duma and the Federation Council, leaders of all prominent parties that have been chosen by the voters, representatives of various confessions and trade union leaders will sign an agreement on civil peace. This is a condition for our moving ahead, for our reform. [passage omitted]

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Let us recall the not so distant past. Formidable KGB units were operating against a handful of dissidents; now, when attempts to shake the Constitution loose are being made all the time, this area of the special services' work is being scaled down. Maybe it would make sense to give the functions of protecting the Constitution back to the special services?

[Rybkin] I would probably agree with you. Even what we have does not work. The Constitutional Court at least operated in a normal fashion...

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] So what is to be done? The Constitutional Court is no longer in operation; the militia combats terrorism, it has no time for other things. Who is protecting us then?

[Rybkin] I do not want to be the special services' or the militia's advocate. The protection of the constitutional order is a multifaceted process, it must come to the attention of both the special services and the Constitutional Court. Now we are ready to pass the law on the Constitutional Court. It has already been drawn up. All tensions between the Main Legal Administration and the Constitutional Court have been eliminated. The next meeting will consider these matters.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] You claim that the tensions have been eliminated. This is a questionable statement. At a recent press conference, Nikolay Vitruk, Constitutional Court member, had complaints to make against the Main Legal Administration, the Main Security Administration, and the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information. For instance,

he said that Mikhail Barsukov (Main Security Administration chief—editorial board) allegedly tapped all his telephones and that no one could do anything about it.

[Rybkin] I approach this matter rather philosophically. When I dealt with the economy, a man was sitting above my office who was in charge of my communications, and he was probably able to listen to my telephone conversations at any moment. At present, this also accompanies me. He who installs telephones can tap them, too. It is another matter that this should be done in accordance with the law. I cannot bring such charges against Barsukov, Ivanov, or Petrov. If someone is tapping somebody, he must be doing so if state interests are at stake, but such actions should be regulated by law. He who does so without legitimate reasons is a criminal. But until I can prove that he is a criminal, I do not have the right to accuse him. [passage omitted]

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] As of today we have effectively no special services. They have been "victimized." Professionals have been abandoning them for commercial businesses. The only real effective law-enforcement agency we have been left with is the Internal Affairs Ministry. Do you agree?

[Rybkin] No, I do not. My view is not so pessimistic. It is very regrettable that some professionals in the prime of their career have found themselves out on the street. But you should agree that the special services cannot be stretched indefinitely. Presently we are parting with the past, the differentiation of people is under way—this is, naturally, painful—but necessary.

The sphere of the special services' activity is very sensitive. The intelligence services of Great Britain, the United States, France, Israel, and other countries are operating both against us and against each other. But at the same time they cooperate. We should forge a partnership, but carefully so. I have Yevgeniy Primakov's (Foreign Intelligence Service director—editorial board) proposal sitting on my desk saying that we should keep as much as to make our relations "transparent," so that we will trust each other. What is redundant may be cut. [passage omitted]

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] But it is our own authorities that are beginning to slice and cut the special services, trying to fit them into some models; as a result the new does not emerge, but the old stops working...

[Rybkin] This is not an easy time. Everything is undergoing reform, but reforms should be carried out so as to make them less painful. People ought to find application for their knowledge and talents.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Or, maybe, reform in the structures of authorities should be temporarily suspended until we get back on our feet economically?

[Rybkin] I think we should take into account the so-called Parkinson's Law. The country has shrunk to one-half its former size. But the number of bureaucrats has doubled. How should we combat this trend? There are plenty of prescriptions: both American experience and the experience of other countries. In Russia, however, drawing on foreign experience is often counterproductive. [passage omitted]

Regional Affairs

Strikes Threatened in St. Petersburg

944F0494B St. Petersburg SANKT PETERBURGSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 23 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by V. Novikov: "Strike Committees Are Politicized"]

[Text]**While creating strike committees in productions included in the Kirovskiy Zavod Association, the consolidated Kirovskiy trade union committee suggests creating a citywide strike committee as well. In the words of the association's trade union leader, Vladimir Yudin, the task of the strike committee today is not to organize but, on the contrary, to warn about protest actions.**

The most politically active Kirovskiy Zavod has it no worse than other enterprises of the city. The average wages are close to 200,000 rubles [R]. Only about 4,000 people have been laid off from the tractor and former tank productions, but they receive a stipend of 44,000. For steel smelters who have work orders, the wages are generally twice the average. Nonetheless, the workers, in Yudin's words, are prepared for protest actions, and the steel smelters are guaranteeing their support for the unemployed tractor builders. The reason, in the opinion of the plant trade union committee, is that the labor collectives consider the present economic reforms to be a blind alley. Taxes and prices raised by monopolists will sooner or later destroy the economy completely.

The consolidated city strike committee could also put pressure on central and regional authorities in order to develop a new economic policy. The strike committees of specific productions must "apply pressure" on the administrations of the enterprises, but not so as to gain any concessions but so that the employer too will influence the government on his own behalf. In other words—the strike committees are becoming politicized.

St. Petersburg Elections Marked by Protest

944F0494ASt. Petersburg SMENA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Aleksandr Gorshkov: "Candidate Deputies File Charges"]

[Text]

Conflicts

As of yesterday the collegium on civil affairs of the St. Petersburg City Court had received about 10 complaints

from candidate deputies to the City Assembly and election associations concerning the way the elections were conducted.

As deputy chairman of the city court, Nella Volzhenkina, reported, the range of complaints is very broad—from specific violations in the polling stations to demands to declare the results of the elections as a whole invalid.

Among the others was a complaint from the former City Council deputy Aleksey Kovalev about the actions of the mayor of St. Petersburg with respect to exercising the authority of the legislative organ of power. The plaintiff asks that the legal acts of the mayor's office published in violation of the Constitution be declared invalid.

Kovalev points out that since 22 December of last year, Anatoliy Sobchak has been performing the functions of an organ of representative power of a subject of the Russian Federation and local self-government on the territory of St. Petersburg.

At the same time Article 10 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation says: "State power in the Russian Federation shall be exercised on the basis of separation into legislative, executive, and judicial. Organs of legislative, executive, and judicial power shall be independent."

In keeping with the Constitution, nobody may appropriate power in the Russian Federation. Seizure of power or appropriation of authority sha'l be persecuted according to federal law" [quotation marks as published].

Thus, certain provisions of Edict of the President of the Russian Federation No. 2252, according to which the mayor actually concentrated the representative power in his own hands, contradicts the Constitution. Thus "laws and other legal acts in effect on the territory of the Russian Federation until the present Constitution takes effect shall be applied as long as they do not contradict the Constitution of the Russian Federation."

From this it follows that in his actions to exercise the authority of the legislative organ beginning 25 December 1993, the mayor of St. Petersburg proceeded from provisions that were not to be applied and violated the provisions of the Constitution. In Kovalev's opinion, these actions cause significant harm to the economic interests of the residents of the city.

The court has taken the applications under advisement.

On 24 March the Procuracy of St. Petersburg sent a protest to the City Court regarding the mayor's directive of 20 March concerning changing the procedure for voting in elections to the City Assembly, according to which the voting was continued for one more day.

Previously, Anatoliy Sobchak had rejected the protest sent to him from the Procuracy on 21 March regarding a similar matter. The mayor thinks that, in keeping with Edict of the President of the Russian Federation of 21 December 1993, Number 2252, "On Reform of Organs of State Power of St. Petersburg," he was instructed to the Statute on Elections to the City Assembly and schedule a date for conducting them.

State Duma Deputies View Vladivostok Conflict

944F0493A Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Tatyana Roshchina: "State Duma Deputies on the Situation in the Kray"]

[Text] Despite the bad weather, State Duma deputies (V. Nesterenko, V. Zelenkin, and I. Bespalov) held a news conference on 23 March in the former House of Political Enlightenment. Their visit to the kray was the result of an exacerbation of the conflict between the municipal and kray authorities, which ended with the events that are known to everyone.

For the sake of objectivity, the deputies first listened to the aggrieved side, and afterwards a series of meetings was held with the leadership of the kray, the kray UVD [Office of Internal Affairs], and the city and kray procuracies. In a long conversation with the governor, according to V. Zelenkin, the governor was forced to admit that the kray organs "went too far" in recent events. A conversation with K. Tolstoshein, the acting head of the city, did not transpire: He met the Moscow guests in such a way that, in the words of the same Zelenkin, "we were compelled to get up and leave."

The deputies were very restrained in their comments on the situation in the kray, declaring that they were not authorized to give a legal evaluation of the events. At the same time, they unanimously admitted that "the methods for changing the city leadership were absolutely improper, exceeding that which is authorized." V. Zelenkin also noted that despite the need to resolve local problems through local courts, he does not see any possibility of resolving them (the problems) without the intervention of the center and the General Procuracy, two of whose representatives were already in the country. Moreover, a representative of the Russian Human Rights Committee is also here today.

To the question as to whether the deputies were in the kray court and saw the court's decree on dismissing V. Cherepkov from his position, I. Bespalov answered that "we were not shown such a decree, and we saw only the decree of the procurator stating that it concurs with the kray court."

Regarding the appointment of Tolstoshein, the deputies remarked that according to the law, the head of the kray in the given circumstances can appoint anyone he wants, although now, incidentally, the Duma committee on local self-government, headed by V. Zelenkin, is considering a law that envisions an election procedure for electing the head of a local government.

Concerning mass discharges in the Grey House, the deputies could report only that they had not yet seen the pertinent documents, having received only an oral explanation of the reorganization of the managerial structure of the city that has taken place. In particular, as he told them, no one "dismissed" Gilgenberg—it was simply that the new structure did not provide for the position of city manager.

The result of the deputy trip will be a note addressed to the president, the State Duma, and the General Procuracy. They promised that they will try once again in the next few days to raise the "Vladivostok question" at a Duma meeting. The events in Vladivostok are so out of the ordinary, the deputies said, that they reverberate throughout Russia.

The opinion of the deputies on the postponement of the date of the kray elections is interesting: V. Zelenkin thinks that in this decision the governor of the kray violated an edict of the president that established the date for the conduct of elections at the end of March. However, in a telephone conversation with the chairman of the Central Election Commission, the latter affirmed that the postponement of the elections to a later date was authorized.

In the opinion of the deputies, rumblings in a number of regions where elections have been disrupted for one reason or another (mainly because of the passivity of the voters) should not delay the dates of elections to local representative organs.

Zyuganov Says Elections Show Feelings Turning Left

LD3003084094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0753 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Reports by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova and by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—"Another round of local elections in Russia confirmed once again that the popular feelings are sharply turning left," leader of the Communist Party of the Russian federation Gennadiy Zyuganov told ITAR-TASS.

In his opinion, the electors voted for "people with socially oriented thinking, and the alliance between patriots and supporters of a strong state is gaining in strength." Aman Tuleyev's victory in Kuzbass, which was "the stronghold of radical democrats quite recently", is convincing proof of it, Zyuganov believes. In his opinion, the same trend became prominent in Ukraine, which follows from the "convincing victory of the left-wing forces in eastern Ukraine and a strong support for state-oriented forces in the Crimea." Everywhere, with the exception of western Ukraine, "the opposition is being consolidated. Actually, it is the opposition to shock therapy and the breaking of ages-long ties between the three great Slavonic nations", Zyuganov continued.

Commenting on the situation in the Crimea, he pointed out that although the public opinion poll, held there, has no legal force, it does reflect people's feelings, and "both Moscow and Kiev will have to take it into account."

The Russian Communist leader said that the Communist party of the Russian Federation favoured the closest possible rapprochement of Moscow, Kiev and Simferopol, and not their drifting apart. "We shall hold a well-considered stand, aimed at improving relations between the Crimea, Ukraine and Russia... Nobody is encroaching upon anybody else's sovereignty, but there can be no real sovereignty, if economic relations are disintegrating," Zyuganov said.

Moscow March 30 TASS—Thirty four members of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation were elected to representative bodies in subjects of the Federation at the local elections last Sunday. A total of 216 Communist candidates took part in the elections, a spokesman for the department for work with the territories at the president's administration told ITAR-TASS.

The activity of Communist candidates was rather high, but no more than 16 per cent of them won the elections. Thus, only two out of 27 Communist candidates got the needed number of votes in the Voronezh region, and as many in the Rostov region, where 31 Communists were standing for election. One out of 20 Communist candidates was elected in the Kursk region.

Thirty-Eight Percent of Electorate Vote

LD3003084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 30 TASS—According to the specified, but still preliminary information, 38 per cent of the electorate took part in the Sunday elections to the representative bodies of power in subjects of the federation, a spokesman for the department for work with the territories at the president's administration told ITAR-TASS. Elections can be regarded as valid, if 25 per cent of electors took part in them, but still the activity of the population can hardly be described as high, although it is a little higher than during the previous stages of the electoral campaign.

In eight regions the voter turnout was more than 40 per cent. The figure was 63 per cent in the Ust-Ordynsky Autonomous District of Buryatia, which was the peak of activity. The population of two other autonomous districts also showed high activity: The representative bodies of power were fully formed in the Taymyr Peninsula and in the Evenk Autonomous District.

Activity was the lowest in the Samara and Magadan regions—23 and 27 per cent respectively. Local dumas were not formed there.

Shakhray Accused of Manipulation in Chechnya

LD2903122094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1030 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Chechen State Secretary Aslanbek Akbulatov has accused Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies Sergey Shakhray of manipulating the Chechen problem for the sake of bolstering his political image. "It is outrageous to be trying to influence the developments in Chechnya from Moscow, not knowing the actual situation and alignment of political forces here," he told Interfax.

He said he was referring to Shakhray's recommendation concerning the Russian leadership's contacts with forces opposing President Dudayev.

"The Chechen leaders' attitude to such recommendations is far from positive. They believe that such a position may jeopardize the recently established dialogue," he added.

"I wouldn't like to think that all this is being done deliberately. I can say, however, that there is very much in common between the demands of individual Chechen opposition leaders and the recommendations of the Russian minister," Akbulatov said in conclusion.

Orenburg Oblast Elections' Validity Disputed

PM2903122194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Valeriy Vedernikov: "President's Representative Calls for Orenburg Oblast Elections To Be Deemed Invalid"]

[Text] Orenburg—A scandal has erupted in Orenburg Oblast in connection with the results of the recent elections to the local representative organs of power. Were they valid or not? According to the oblast electoral commission this question can be answered in the affirmative. Of the 47 seats in the oblast legislative assembly 36 have acquired incumbents. And that enables the assembly to function on a legal basis even in this truncated form. In the remaining 11 districts the elections were deemed invalid because of the low turnout.

Vladislav Shapovalenko, the president's representative in Orenburg Oblast, broke the calm. He spoke on local television, accusing oblast electoral commission chairman Yu. Andreyev of arbitrariness and juggling with the election results. And he urged the oblast prosecutor to deem the elections in eight districts invalid. If his protest is satisfied the elections in the oblast as a whole will be deemed invalid.

In V. Shapovalenko's opinion the statute on the elections according to which the participation of 20 percent of the electorate is necessary for them to be deemed valid has been broken. But in the past the Central Electoral Commission has sent a specification to the localities according to which the percentage of turnout must be determined from the number of valid ballot slips. But in practice there is always a large difference between the number of voters and the number of ballot slips deemed valid. And that difference could be fatal for the eight districts. In terms of turnout they reached the necessary level. But some were tens of a percent and others hundreds of a percent short of the number of valid ballot slips required.

It should be noted that Yu. Andreyev was not acting alone. On election day he telephoned the Central Electoral Commission in Moscow several times and sought advice. As a result he was given the go-ahead to deem the elections in these disputed districts valid. The oblast legislative assembly thus become fully empowered, reaching the necessary two thirds of its makeup.

It will soon become clear how the conflict will end. But some people see in the position of the president's representative a morbid reaction to the crushing defeat of "Russia's Choice" and "Democratic Russia." Not one of their representatives got into the oblast legislative assembly. Actually, the bloc "against poverty, unemployment, and corruption," which included Communists, agrarian experts, and commodity producers and some others, did not win special laurels either. The head of the local Communists and the chairman of the oblast's union of commodity producers became deputies. It is true that the list of those elected contains many former party functionaries who were able to keep afloat. Despite the appeal from V. Yelagin, head of the oblast administration, to the leaders of rayon administrations not to submit their candidacies, the latter did not heed him. As a result 11 have become deputies. Even more seats were obtained by the directors of industrial enterprises and chairmen of former collective farms—19. The director of a commercial bank, the director of a commercial firm, and two journalists successfully passed through the sieve of the election campaign.

Elections to the Orenburg City Duma were invalid. Of 13 deputies' seats only four were filled. Elections were invalid in a number of districts of other cities in the oblast. The election campaign cost 2.5 billion rubles. If the question of the contested districts is reviewed they may be considered to have been thrown to the wind.

Tatarstan Elects Federal Assembly Deputies

PM2903124394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "More Federal Assembly Deputies"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission has confirmed the results of the elections to the Federation Council in Tatarstan. Farit Mukhametshin,

chairman of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet, and Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev have officially been named deputies of the upper chamber of parliament.

The official results of elections to the State Duma in five electoral districts on Tatarstan territory have also been summed up. Gennadiy Yegorov, member of the republic "Unity for Progress" party, has been elected for Almetyevskiy electoral district no. 23; journalist Oleg Morozov has been elected for Moskovskiy electoral district no. 24; Vladimir Altukhov, director of a private enterprise, has been elected for Naberezhnochelninskiy electoral district no. 25; Gabdulvakhit Bagautdinov, director of a children's home, has been elected for Nizhnekamskiy electoral district no. 26; and Valentin Mikhaylov, Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet deputy, has been elected for Privolzhskiy electoral district no. 27.

Thus only deputies from the Chechen Republic and Chelyabinsk Oblast have not been elected to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly.

Army Demands Dniester Repeal Law on Troop Status

LD2903150894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1241 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By freelance correspondent Anatoliy Kholodyuk for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Tiraspol, 29 Mar—The 14th Army Military Council describes as a political provocation an amendment made on 15 February to the unrecognised Dniester republic's law on the status of Russian troops stationed within the republic. According to the document, Russian troops' weapons, fighting equipment and other military property are declared the property of Tiraspol.

A statement by the Army Military Council issued today says that the Dniester authorities have demonstrated utter contempt of the Russian Federation and its efforts to uphold peace in the region.

Announcing that Tiraspol "is at state level encouraging the seizure of the 14th Army's sites, armaments and hardware," the military council of the Russian amalgamation of guards has lodged a strong protest with the Dniester authorities and demand that the law in question be repealed.

Apathy in Sakhalin Blamed on Economic Decline

PM2903124594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Ponomarev: "When There Is No Bread, Voters Have No Time For Manifestos"]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk—The local legislative organ elections in the Far East were valid only on Sakhalin. But even on the island, where 51 candidates were running for the 16 seats in the oblast duma, the results were very different from what the organizers had expected. In two multiseat districts—Korsakovskiy and Kholmskiy, which unite the central and southern parts of the oblast as well as the Kuril Islands—only slightly more than 25 percent of registered voters turned out. The turnout in Tymovskiy District in northern Sakhalin was slightly higher at around 32 percent. But the most discouraging poll result was the fact that the elections were almost wholly ignored by the population of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk—only 18 percent of voters turned out.

It is possible that the weather played a mean trick on the election organizers—as a result of heavy snow falls many residents of the south of the island had no water for several days, power supplies were intermittent, and no bread was delivered to the stores.

Nonetheless, the main cause of the Sakhalin people's political apathy, it seems to me, lies elsewhere. As one of Russia's most "expensive" regions, the island is drifting from one economic disaster to another. The lack of diversification in the old economy, geared mainly to fishing and timber procurement and enriching a narrow group of merchants and former members of the party nomenklatura, has left most of the population on its uppers, and there are only a few projects (of dubious worth from the islanders' viewpoint) as evidence of the widely trumpeted promises to "Taiwanize" Sakhalin and turn it into a kind of oil and gas El Dorado.

Voronezh Facing Economic 'State of Emergency'

PM2903150594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Pisarev: "Administration Orders Stabilization"]

[Text] A state of emergency has been declared in Voronezh Oblast in order to stabilize finances in the social sphere, industry, and transport. In this connection Aleksandr Kovalev, head of the oblast administration, has signed several decrees instructing the financial administration to regulate the rayon and city budgets and thus, it is planned, even out the oblast budget deficit.

During the state of emergency period health care, education, social security, culture, and managerial structures will be on starvation rations—they will be given the minimum funds needed to survive. Proposals aimed at cutting spending in these spheres are being given all kinds of backing.

The state tax inspectorate and the tax police have been given total carte-blanche. They have been ordered to step up checks to ensure that the oblast and local budgets receive full and timely revenue payments.

In effect Voronezh Oblast has decided to strengthen financial discipline by administrative means, tightening the screws in the loose reform mechanisms. On the other hand, evening out the budget deficit may be seen as a

move toward retreat. I remember that censored military reports used to refer to a retreat as evening out the front line.

Yeltsin Edict Undermines Krasnoyarsk Governor

MK2903122094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Todres under the "Province" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin Protects Krasnoyarsk Parliament"]

[Excerpt] Out of the 27 percent of Krasnoyarsk Kray residents who came to the polls on 27 March after all, nearly half also took part in the banned referendum. This was not out of their own disloyalty but owing to the slowness of presidential messengers. The edict signed by Boris Yeltsin the night before reached the polling stations only by the second half of the polling day.

The people of Krasnoyarsk were supposed to either approve or reject during their plebiscite the draft law crafted by the local administration "On the Foundations of Direct Sovereignty of the People and State Power." One of the kray's well-known politicians told your SEGODNYA correspondent that the law "was needed in order to bind up the legislative assembly once and for all," where, as things stand now, only five out of the 34 deputies would constantly work there. For example, it had been planned to grant the administration's head the right to push the discussion of any awkward matter one month back merely by his directive (that is to "filibuster" it, considering that the session only takes place four times a year). Notably, all the governor's legislative initiatives would be entitled to be considered out of turn.

The referendum, however, was not canceled because of Boris Yeltsin's suddenly revived love for institutions of representative power. Local observers maintain that the main reason was the long-standing tensions between Governor Valeriy Zubov and Yuriy Moskvich, the president's representative in the kray. Knowing that the center mistrusts local referendums (especially in the Urals and Siberia), the latter was prompt to "present materials") to the president's staff. They say around the city that the edict that followed dealt an appreciable blow at Mr. Zubov.

The edict refers to the constitutional ban on putting to referendums regional charters and—unless they have been agreed on in Moscow—questions on the status of a federation component. They point out in Krasnoyarsk that no charter was put to the plebiscite (only an individual law), and the changing of the kray's status (for example to that of a republic) was totally out of the question. In the opinion of Vyacheslav Novikov, head of the local Center for Strategic Projections, "the kray's authorities would surely win their case at the Constitutional Court, only the court does not work now." [passage omitted]

Krasnodar To Begin Visa Regime for Republics

LD2903182794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar March 29 TASS—The Krasnodar Territorial administration has decided to introduce a visa regime for residents of the former soviet republics as the territory is a border area on the Russian south.

Speakers at today's meeting of the territorial administration noted that the Kubans have managed to organize the protection of borders and public safety in the territorial border areas bearing in mind the on-going clashes in the Transcaucasian and North Caucasian republics.

They have formed check points and mobile groups. Cossack organizations have made 130 units to participate in operations together with the local police.

Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin told the meeting that the escalation of violence in the Krasnodar Territory has become stable and criminal terror has turned regular. Last year alone the Kuban police revealed 400 criminal groups with an overall strength of 1,000 people.

New Cruiser Testifies To Start of Navy 'Revival'

PM2903110594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 27 Mar 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by Yu. Belov and Yu. Shipovskiy]

[Text] [video opens with men in uniform sitting at table taking part in meeting] [Belov] During a visit by Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin to St. Petersburg a whole range of problems was finally resolved. For instance, his meeting with heads of the city's leading industrial enterprises outlined some ways to eliminate the chronic crisis of unpaid debts in the defense industry. During a visit to the Petr Velikiy, a nuclear-powered heavy missile cruiser which is under construction, the intention of both the Defense Ministry and the workers themselves to commission the ship on schedule was confirmed. This offers the hope that, despite funding difficulties, the Russian Navy is beginning to see a revival in its fortunes.

[A. Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, identified by caption] I believe that by the joint efforts of the fleet, the Defense Ministry, and the shipyard the construction of this ship will be completed and it will join the Navy.

International Affairs

Rumyantsev Suggests Dual Citizenship for Crimeans

LD2903135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow 29 Mar, TASS—"Citizens of the Crimean Republic have clearly confirmed their striving for integration with Russia for the second time within the past three months and supported the policy of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov," ex-secretary of the Russian Supreme Soviet's Constitutional Commission and head of the Russian Fund for Constitutional Reforms Oleg Rumyantsev told ITAR-TASS here today.

Rumyantsev commented on results of the recent Crimean plebiscite. He said he has "close comradely relations" with Meshkov" and is trying to "render the Crimean Republic regular support in the sphere of state-legal development."

Rumyantsev is sure that Meshkov's policy aims not to separate the Crimea from Ukraine, but to settle relations with both Ukraine and Russia on the basis of agreements, create a single legal and ruble space, and "become a real integration locomotive."

In the opinion of the jurist, "if this policy is not ruined in Kiev or Moscow" the Crimea may become a bridge of cooperation in finances and double citizenship experiment. The Commonwealth does not have a single area to test double citizenship, he added.

The Russian Fund for Constitutional Reforms has been asked to develop a notion of a law on Crimean citizenship. "It will be very interesting to test the double citizenship idea (supported by Crimean residents) as this mechanism can play a key role in integration of the complex federal formation that appears on territory of the former Soviet Union," said Rumyantsev.

This would mean the sides mutually recognize juridical documents—passports, graduate certificates and the like and the law enforcement bodies provide for human rights and freedoms on both territories. "Without any changes in borders or international-legal basic features, the double citizenship institute can help formation of a new single legal space," said Rumyantsev.

Russian Official Warns of Potential 'Explosion' in Crimea

AU2903143494 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Simferopol, Ukraine, 29 March (AFP)—Ukraine must give Crimea a large degree of economic autonomy if it wants to avoid a conflict with its autonomous Republic on the Black Sea, a Russian official said here.

"To put pressure on Crimea could cause an explosion. For Ukraine, there is only one outcome, that is to offer Crimea the widest possible scope in the economic domain," Konstantin Zatulin told a press conference here. [passage omitted]

Zatulin is chairman of the committee in charge of relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the Duma (lower house of parliament).

Zatulin insisted that "Russia has never played and never will play the Crimean card," but "it is impossible not to take into account Russia's special interests in Crimea." [passage omitted]

"We are working from the principle of Ukraine's (territorial) integrity, but Crimea and certain Ukrainian regions are de facto very close to Russia," Zatulin said.

On the thorny question of the Black Sea fleet, which has poisoned relations between Kiev and Moscow for the past two years, Zatulin said to share the fleet was "an absurd idea."

"After talking to the sailors, I know that no decision on sharing the fleet would be implemented by the military," he said. "We must carry on working on the basis of the treaty of Massandra." [passage omitted]

ITAR-TASS Views Crimean Elections, Poll

LD2903145194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Simferopol 29 Mar, TASS—Last Sunday, the Crimeans were taking part not only in the Ukrainian and their own parliamentary elections, but also in an opinion poll on some important political issues of the peninsula.

It is necessary to point out that on the eve of the elections some political parties and movements called on the Crimeans to stay away from the Ukrainian parliamentary elections or, to be more exact, not to drop the ballots into the ballot-boxes, but take them away.

It is not known yet whether the voters paid their attention to this call or not, but it was already stated that the Crimean parliamentary elections are recognized valid because more than 60 percent of the electorate took part in the elections (the needed number is 50 percent).

In accordance with the preliminary data, the "Russia" election bloc, which nominated Yuriy Meshkov for the presidency, and representatives of the Communist Party are in the lead.

The opinion poll, which was conducted on the initiative of President Meshkov, known for his pro-Russian sentiments, consisted of three questions: Should the Crimea

establish its relations with Ukraine on the basis of agreements, whether the people support the idea of the dual citizenship and whether they agree to attach force of law to some decrees by the Crimean president.

The poll's idea caused a negative reaction in Kiev and the Crimean Central Electoral Commission did not participate in its organizing. The poll, which is considered a sociological study, was conducted by the presidential structures of the peninsula.

A group of international observers at the Ukrainian and Crimean parliamentary elections held a press-conference on Monday. "We did not register any violations of the Crimean election legislation or the international election law," Sergey Stankevich, Russia's State Duma deputy, told journalists.

Border Cooperation Agreed On With Hungary, Romania

LD2903222694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—The press service of Ukraine's border troops reported on 29 March that a trilateral meeting of the heads of the border troops of Ukraine, Hungary, and Romania in the Hungarian town of Nyiregyhaza had ended. In accordance with a proposal by Army General Valeriy Hubenko, head of the Ukrainian delegation, a decision was made at the meeting to set up a joint coordinative group of the three countries for the cooperation of border troops in the campaign against illegal migration and organized crime.

Naval Chief Criticizes Condition of Black Sea Fleet

LD2903113794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1956 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Sevastopol [no date as received]—Rear Admiral Oleksiy Ryzhenko, chief of staff and deputy commander of Ukraine's Navy, said in an interview with UNIAN on 28 March that "statements about the Black Sea Fleet's power are nothing but a myth and deception of the people." According to him, the Black Sea Fleet is equipped with outdated rocket weaponry of the former USSR, some of which is no longer produced by the industry. In the past seven to 10 years, scheduled maintenance of the rocket artillery weapons has not been performed, and only emergency repairs and renovations have been conducted. The average age of the ships is 15-20 years, and no money has been allocated lately for their servicing. No new ships have been added to the Black Sea Fleet in the past few years, while modernization and reequipment of the existing ships, considering their old age, does not look justifiable. According to Oleksiy Ryzhenko, [words indistinct] five submarines, 20 auxiliary vessels, and five special task ships of the Black Sea Fleet are currently being repaired at Ukraine's shipyards. Another 77 ships and vessels are due to be sent for repair.

The rear admiral said that the intensity and quality of combat training has suffered a drop for a number of reasons, while "the occasional appearance of 20-25 ships does not prove the power or combat readiness of the Black Sea Fleet. One cannot seriously say that this fleet is a guarantor of CIS security," Oleksiy Ryzhenko believes.

Black Sea Fleet Demands Ukrainian Army Pay Debts

LD2903185394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1837 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol 29 Mar, TASS—The command of the Crimea-based Black Sea Fleet has demanded that the Ukrainian Army pay its debts for electric power supplies and construction works provided by the fleet.

A message sent Tuesday to Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy mentioned that the Ukrainian Army debts to the fleet amounted to 20 billion karbovanets (about 0.6 million dollars).

In case the debts are not settled before 10 April, the command will consider abandoning all construction works at the Ukrainian military sites and cutting off power supplies for the units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the message said.

Government Does Not Want CIS Representation at UN

LD2903221194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Today, Yuriy Serhyeyev, head of the [Foreign Ministry] Information Directorate, reported at a Defense Ministry briefing that the Foreign Affairs Ministry is once again asserting that Ukraine does not need the mediation of a CIS representative to represent its interests at the United Nations. Ukraine's positions, which Volodymyr Handohiy [Ukraine's acting permanent representative at the United Nations] related at a plenary session of the UN General Assembly—that a CIS representative can only represent the interests of those states that have signed the CIS Charter—remain unchanged. As Ukraine has not done this, and also does not consider the CIS to be a subject of international law, but only a regional organization, Ukrainian diplomacy is in favor of direct and not mediated relations with the United Nations.

National Affairs

No Outright Election Winners in Kharkov Districts

LD2903164894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Kharkov, 28 March—Elections were valid in every constituency, but none of them elected a people's

deputies. In almost every constituency competition was mainly between MBR [Hrynyov-Kuchma Interregional Bloc of Reforms] members on the one hand, and the SPU [Socialist Party of Ukraine] and CPU [Communist Party of Ukraine] on the other. In the Kharkov's 14 constituencies, (?eight) SPU and CPU members went through to the second stage. Among the candidates going through to the second round are current People's Deputies Volodymyr Hrynyov, with 35.8 percent of the vote, Valeriy Meshcheryakov, with 13.6 per cent in Radyanskyy Electoral District No. 376, Mykola Koshlyakov, with 26.7 percent, and Volodymyr Filenko, with 18.6 percent in Zhovtnevyy Electoral District No. 386.

Election Results in Poltava Region Reported

LD2903170294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Poltava, 28 March—Elections were valid in all of the Poltava region's 16 constituencies. Votes were cast by 1,103,473 out of 1,315,593 of those registered, which represents 84.3 percent. The only one to have been elected outright was Colonel Hryhoriy Omelchenko, Security Service of Ukraine officer.

Deputies Elected in First, Second Rounds Reported

LD2903200894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Lugansk, 28 Mar—Among the deputies elected after the first round are six representatives of the Communist Party of Ukraine. They are:

In Antratsitovskiy Electoral District No. 241, Valentyn Yeskov, director of the anthracite production association's sanatorium and preventive clinic;

In Krasnodonskiy Electoral District No. 243, Anatoliy Levchenko, mine shift leader;

In Perevalskiy Electoral District No. 255, Dmytro Petrenko, head of the Lugansk coal construction trust;

In Starobelskiy Electoral District No. 259, Yuriy Donchenko, deputy chairman of the motor transport and roads workers trade union's regional committee;

In Belovodskiy Electoral District No. 253, Oleksandr Chernenkov, chairman of Novoaydarskiy Rayon's Dzerzhinskiy collective farm; and

In Sverdlovskiy Electoral District No. 249, Petro Tsybenko, who is in charge of prerecruitment preparation at Sverdlovsk's Secondary School No. 7.

The seventh deputy to have been elected was Oleksiy Dmytrenko, non-party member and director of the private firm Feld in Krasnoluchskiy Electoral District No. 224. [sentence as received]

Through to the second round were:

In Alchevskiy Electoral District No. 240, S. Hmyrya and P. Ryabukhin;
In Bryankovskiy Electoral District No. 242, S. Zinchenko and V. Sova;
In Lisichanskiy Electoral District No. 245, Ye. Anenkov and F. Hneushev;
In Pervomayskiy Electoral District No. 246, Yu. Kryzskyy and H. Plis;
In Rovenkovskiy Electoral District No. 247, V. Kocherha and V. Bohachev;
In Rubezhanskiy Electoral District No. 248, I. Makukha and V. Binetskyy;
In Artemovskiy Electoral District No. 235, V. Afanasyev and A. Yahoferov;
In Vatutinskiy Electoral District No. 236, P. Stepanov and Ye. Nikitin;
In Zhovtnevyy Electoral district No. 237, V. Ilyushyn and A. Cherkasov;
In Kamenobrodskiy Electoral district No. 238, L. Hladkaya and O. Borzykh;
In Leninskiy Electoral District No. 239, V. Kolomyytsev and V. Shatskyy;
In Lutuginskiy Electoral District No. 254, S. Aksenenko and P. Afanasyev;
In Svatovskiy Electoral District No. 256, O. Stashenko and V. Mushnyk;
In Slavyanoserbskiy Electoral District No. 257, M. Stepanov and N. Sylchuk;
In Stanichnoluganskiy Electoral District No. 258, V. Ulanov and A. Manukhin;
In Severodonskiy Electoral District No. 250, H. Dyreykin and A. Ternovyy;
In Stakhanovskiy Electoral District No. 251, M. Churuba and V. Berezhnyy; and
In Antratsitovskiy Electoral District No. 252, V. Bondarenko and V. Kozarenko, who are currently deputies.

Electoral Commission Spokesman on First Round Results

LD2903144694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1235 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Kiev—A news conference on the results of the elections of people's deputies to the Supreme Council of Ukraine was held on 29 March. Ivan Yemets, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, confirmed that the elections had taken place in all 450 constituencies. Forty-nine deputies were elected in the first round, of whom 11 are engineers, 13 education workers, three lawyers and economists. With regard to party affiliation, the deputies have been divided in the following manner: 12 are members of the Communist Party of Ukraine; four are Rukh members; two each from the Ukrainian Republican Party, Peasants Party of Ukraine, [SelPU] Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [KUN] and the Socialist Party of Ukraine; one from the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party—party leader Stepan Khmara, and 24 have no party affiliation.

In the words of Ivan Yemets, the overwhelming majority of parties are maintaining their positions in the second

round. In the first instance this concerns the communists, socialists and the national-democrats. Ivan Yemets expressed confidence that the "second round would give Ukraine a new parliament." Replying to a question about how many deputies would be required in order for the new parliament to start working, Ivan Yemets said: "There are some discrepancies with the current legislation in relation to this question, therefore it will be ascertained later how many deputies, 226 or 301, will be required".

Speaking about the poll in Crimea, Ivan Yemets said that the Central Electoral Commission had nothing whatsoever to do with this process. It was a matter purely for the president of Crimea. It was reported that the majority of district electoral commissions had scheduled the second round of elections for 10 April. On this matter, Ivan Yemets called on representatives of the press to make every effort to explain to the population the necessity of electing a new parliament.

'Russia' Bloc 'Unquestioned Leader' in Crimean Elections

WS2903155194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The complexity of the elections for the Crimean Supreme Soviet which took place on Sunday [27 March] considerably slowed down the vote-counting process. [Word indistinct] results of the election will probably not be made public until Wednesday, the general outcome is known. Our correspondent reported that (?so far) 12 deputies to the Crimean parliament were elected in single-seat districts. The Russia bloc, supported by 77 percent of the electorate, became the unquestioned leader in multiseat districts, where the elections were based on party preference. (?Most of) the 14 legislative seats earmarked for parties were won by this bloc. The Communists can count on only one or two seats in the Crimean parliament; as little as 11 percent of the electorate voted for them. In the Crimean Tatar national electoral districts, most of the seats were garnered by candidates proposed by the kurultay [congress of all Tatars], who won the support of 89 percent of the constituency. Representatives of the displaced Crimean people are allocated 14 out of a total 98 seats in the Crimean Supreme Soviet.

CE Delegation Head Confirms Elections Free

LD2903200994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Members of the delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [CE] have no grounds to doubt that the elections of people's deputies of Ukraine were free and fair and proceeded on a democratic basis. (Lord Windsber), the head of the delegation, stated this at a press conference in Kiev. [passage omitted]

Final Details of Crimean Parliamentary Election Results

LD3003113894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Simferopol—The Republic of Crimea's Central Electoral Commission on 29 March held a news conference to sum up the final stage of the election to Crimea's Supreme Council. Central Electoral Commission Chairman Viktor Alsufyev announced the elections took place in 62 single-seat constituencies. In four constituencies, they were declared null and void, with repeat elections to be held there. Deputies were elected in the first round in 12 constituencies, and the election's second round on 10 April will be held in 49.

Of the 12 deputies elected in single-seat constituencies, nine represent the Rossiya bloc, two were nominated by enterprises' workforce, and one is a Sevastopol billionaire, Serhiy Shuryha [Sergey Shuryga]. The party affiliation of the candidates through to the second round is as follows: 50 are of the Rossiya bloc, 19 of enterprises' workforce, 16 independents, four of trade unions, four of Crimea's Communist Party, three of Crimea's Russian Party, and one of the Union of Officers.

Crimean Central Electoral Commission Chairman Viktor Alsufyev also stated that among the 12 deputies elected in single-seat constituencies, there is an electrician, two newspaper associates, a small enterprise's courier, a deputy head of a technological center, a cinema theater director, two servicemen, an entrepreneur, and the head of an agricultural directorate.

In the constituencies having more than one seat, the disposition of political forces is as follows: The Crimean Party of Social Guarantees has 2.67 percent, the Communist Party of Crimea 11.3 percent, the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea 2.77 percent, the Rossiya bloc 66.86 percent, and the Party of the Economic Revival of Crimea 6.91 percent.

In the Crimean Tartar ethnic constituency with more than one seat:

The Crimean Tartar Cultural Fund 0.95 percent, the Kurultay of the Crimean Tartar People 89.3 percent, the Crimean Tartar National Movement 5.41 percent, and the Crimean Tartar Cultural Centre 1.28 percent.

The results of the elections in single-seat ethnic constituencies are as follows:

In the Armenian constituency, Danelyan has 85.7 percent and Ertseyan 12.6 percent; in the Greek constituency, Kiselev has 12 percent and Sumulidi 65.86 percent; in the Bulgarian constituency, Karazhov has 65.17 percent and Stamov 31.64 percent; and in the German constituency, Oster has 34.1 percent and Renpening 61.24 percent.

Viktor Alsufyev noted that the date for the repeat elections to be held in the constituencies where the

elections were declared null and void would be set after the second round of the elections.

Commenting on the Crimean election results, Leonid Grach, Communist Party of Crimea first secretary, said: "The elections have demonstrated that a certain part of Crimea's population does support Communists. Of course, we did not expect a total victory. As a result we have a patriotic leftist parliament, and the main task of Crimean parliamentarians is to search for a formula of unity."

Asked by an UNIAN correspondent about possible cooperation with representatives of the Kurultay of the Crimean Tartar People in parliament, Leonid Grach said: "We are ready to cooperate with everybody for the sake of Crimea's future."

Communist Leaders Hold News Conference on Elections

LD2903225194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Donetsk—A news conference by Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine [CPU], and Heorhiy Buyko and Volodymyr Kocherha [names as transliterated], secretaries of the CPU Donetsk Oblast committee, took place on 29 March. It was devoted to the results of the first stage of voting in elections to Ukraine's Supreme Council. Petro Symonenko stated that in Ukraine "great interest in the leftist forces is noticeable right now. The stance of our candidates made an impression on our voters." Petro Symonenko is certain that the Communists will come out as victors in the second round of voting too.

Answering the question of a UNIAN correspondent about how the CPU is planning to deal with party property that has not been returned to them, the party secretary replied: "Commercial structures have been given 60 percent of party property. Primarily, we would like to ask on what grounds the property was handed over to them and not to the ownership of the people. If these structures are speculative ones, then let them return the property, which belongs to the party, and then the party will decide where to direct the funds."

Petro Symonenko reported that should the Communists obtain a party majority in the Supreme Council, they will be raising the issue of calling off presidential elections in Ukraine. As far as work in the new Supreme Council is concerned, the secretary of the CPU Central Committee stated: "We need to find a compromise with the opposing forces that will be in the future Supreme Council so as not to conduct a political struggle over a certain period of time. In the first place we need to resolve the economic problems, and only then the political ones."

Results of Elections in Kiev Detailed

WS3003114594 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fortune Favored Few. Main Battle for Seats Will Be Waged in the Second Round"]

[Excerpt] In Kiev, as the press center Elections 94 has been told by district electoral commissions, according to preliminary results, elections have been held in all constituencies. Volodymyr Lanovyy, in Rusanovskiy Electoral District No. 17, and Serhiy Holovatyy, in Syretskiy Electoral District No. 19, were elected Supreme Council deputies in the first round.

Remaining in the second round were:

K. Morozov and V. Medvedchuk, in Artemovskiy Electoral District No. 1;
V. Shcherbakov and V. Lukash, in Vatutinskiy Electoral District No. 2;
T. Vintsyuk and O. Bondarenko, in Gagarinskiy Electoral District No. 3;
V. Chemerys and Ya. Fedoryn, in Goloseyevskiy Electoral District No. 4;
B. Synelnyk and V. Rusanov, in Darnitskiy Electoral District No. 5;
V. Budnikov and M. Rud, in Zaliznychnyy Electoral District No. 6;
Ye. Dobzhanskyy and N. Chanhuli, in Industrialnyy Electoral District No. 7;
V. Bondarenko and M. Hrabar, in Leningradskiy Electoral District No. 8;
V. Andriychuk and Ye. Kerch, in Levoberezhnyy Electoral District No. 9;
D. Poyezd and D. Kostanchuk, in Obolonskiy Electoral District No. 10;
A. Serhiyenko and A. Bozhko, in Pecherskiy Electoral District No. 11;
K. Matviyenko and I. Dankevich, in Yuzhnyy Electoral District No. 12;
I. Saliy and O. Danyleyko, in Podolskiy Electoral District No. 13;
V. Karpenko and O. Kubakh, in Prirechnyy Electoral District No. 14;
Yu. Orobets and V. Solovey, in Promyshlennyy Electoral District No. 15;
N. Horbatyuk and V. Martynyuk, in Radyanskiy Electoral District No. 16;
I. Zayets and A. Bondarchuk, in Svyatoshinskiy Electoral District No. 18;
O. Chornovilenko and V. Melnyk, in Troyeshchinskiy Electoral District No. 20;
V. Kovalenko and S. Li, in Khakovskiy Electoral District No. 21;
A. Hrachev and B. Andresyuk, in Tsentralnyy Electoral District No. 22;
S. Yufa and Yu. Kostenko, in Krasnoarmeyskiy Electoral District No. 23. [passage omitted]

Crimea's Deputy Premier Comments on Election Results

LD3003090794 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Crimean elections and the opinion poll, Yevgeniy Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Government, told POST-FACTUM that the question of treaty-based relations between Crimea and Kiev would only ease tension, but by no means lead to the breakdown of Ukraine. In his words, both the elections and the poll actually recorded the existing situation. The deputy prime minister also stressed that Crimea had no intention of breaking away from Ukraine if a sensible economic policy is implemented and if the work of the Crimean leadership is not disrupted. However, it was clear that this was unrealistic in the near future, Saburov said.

Therefore, Crimea is going to raise the question of special relations, first and foremost in the economic sphere, and it will go as far as concluding international treaties.

Accusations of 'Crude' Election Violations in Crimea

LD3003113694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The situation in Crimea will deteriorate further. Yuriy Meshkov and his administration and the newly-elected Supreme Council will not be able to work constructively at maintaining peace and stability on the peninsula, says a statement by the Ukrainian sociopolitical organizations of Crimea and the Crimean Tatar National Rukh. This document is devoted to the outcome of the elections of 27 March in Ukraine.

The organization of the Crimean Tatar National Rukh will support the Ukrainian organizations in questions of maintenance of territorial integrity and affirmation of Ukrainian power on the territory of Crimea, the statement says. The authors of the document cite cases of a crude breach of legislation on the peninsula in the course of the election campaign and the elections themselves, but the greatest breach noted in the statement was the canvassing speech by the president on the eve of the elections on local TV.

Almost 75 Percent Turnout of Voters in Elections

LD3003110294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1047 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk 30 Mar, TASS—Contrary to numerous forecasts, Ukrainian parliamentary elections on 27 March turned out to be valid, with an almost 75 percent turnout of voters.

More than 25 million people went to the polls, with the highest voter turnout recorded in Lvov, Ternopol, Ivano-Frankovsk, Donetsk, Lugansk, Poltava, Khmelnitsky and Kharkov regions. The turnout of voters in the Republic of Crimea was 71 per cent. In Kiev, slightly more than a half of the electorate cast their votes.

Only 49 out of the prospective 450-member parliament were elected in the first round of polling (25 had been nominated by parties and 24 are nonparty people).

Run-offs are to be held in 401 districts before 10 April. However, Central Electoral Commission Chief Ivan Yemets believes that in the majority of districts run-offs may be held this coming weekend, with only two candidates in each district to contest seats in parliament.

President Kravchuk Views Crimea Issues

944K0968A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 94 p 1

[Interview with Leonid Kravchuk by N. Gavrileva, in Kiev and Simferopol; date not given: "I See Three Moves Ahead...."]

[Text] Kiev-Simferopol—The president of Ukraine has not paid an official visit to the Republic of Crimea for quite some time, and it is not often that Crimean journalists are in Kiev, and it is even less often that they are received by the top leader of the state. Half an hour had been allotted for the interview with KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA, and not a minute more, but the conversation with the president lasted 45 minutes and was broken off on account of his tight schedule. We regard this as a sign of the Ukrainian leadership's special attention to Crimean problems.

[Gavrileva] Several years ago Ukraine opted for the path of the building of its own statehood based on the national idea. But nationalism has always led either to war or to destitution—there is no other way. Ukraine has managed to take the less painful second path. But it is time to extricate ourselves from the destitution also....

[Kravchuk] It is an illusion that things are going badly for Ukraine because it is pursuing some national policy: Things are going badly for everyone, and this is natural; I would like this understood. There has been no instance in history of the collapse of one system and the building of another occurring simultaneously with an increase in production and economic prosperity.

It is not a question of Kravchuk's national policy here, but of the difficulty of this transition. I put down to our credit—not that of myself, but of all of us—the fact that with such difficulties, such a structure, and such a character of our state, we are tackling all questions in peace. We must all extricate ourselves from the destitution, this including Russia, which is the point of yearning for Crimea, where the illusion has been created that, should it become a part of Russia, things would immediately be easier for everyone.

But we watch Ostankino (even if doctored): Production there is coming to a halt, wages have not been paid for three months, and in the heartland there is simply nothing other than potatoes—what, then, is the issue? Russia is a most wealthy state selling timber, oil, and gas, and we purchase these! So the judgments and the speculation on this basis should not be so superficial.

I understand Crimea's gravitation toward Russia, but it is not all of Crimea that aspires to this, which the voting showed, incidentally. Some 1.8 million Russians—it was they, by and large, who voted for such a policy. But others also live in Crimea: 600,000 Ukrainians, 250,000 Crimean Tatars; God willing, this will come to nearly 1 million. Crimea cannot be perceived as uniform and as supporting only the policy that has been proposed by its present leadership.

Russia has its interests in Crimea, and it will not renounce them, but let us see how to adjust and mate these interests. If some politicians from Crimea believe that it is possible to cross over to Russia immediately by having learned the opinion of part of the population, this is a profound delusion. This is a subject for discussion by the whole Ukrainian people: When a divorce is under way, it is not only the wishes of one party in a family that are taken into consideration. Somebody holding someone back is not the issue here. Go ahead! The husband, if he is noble, leaves the refrigerator, the bed, the land, the house, and walks away. We do not object.

What kind of policy is Russia pursuing today? We in the upper echelons of power, they say, will not interfere but will with the middle strata (the deputies and such) inflame the situation, and then Crimea will itself by the revolutionary path, creating tension within, gradually, given certain political circumstances, come over to Russia.

Ukraine's strategy: We say that we will not consent to any negotiations concerning borders, territorial integrity, or sovereignty. And the world is backing us at this time—I say this without exaggeration. The UN Security Council's response to Russia's Sevastopol decision is a clear example of this. In addition, Yeltsin and I signed the corresponding agreement. The Europeans do not understand what is happening here. Surely we understand that it is impossible today to carve up borders—the holy of holies, the pillars of European security! This is why we say: It cannot be done!

But considering the special status, history, and population of Crimea, we agree to grant it economic independence just as far as this is possible—but with the political status quo! These are not just words. Yu. Meshkov was sitting next to me, and we reached an agreement: The budget—let us do as you wish, let us balance its revenue and expenditure sides. Everything will now depend on actual work. If Crimea takes care of its revenue side itself, it will look after all its expenditures; we, on the other hand, will help the Crimean Tatar population....

[Gavrileva] In what way?

[Kravchuk] We will allocate additional money from the Ukrainian budget. You will have complete economic freedom, complete independence.

[Gavrileva] We have a new deputy prime minister.... What is being decided, incidentally, on the question of his citizenship?

[Kravchuk] It will be resolved, this is not a problem....

[Gavrileva] What do you think, what that is new will Ye. Saburov bring to the development of Crimea's economy and the relations of Kiev and Simferopol?

[Kravchuk] From what I have heard and read, I understand that he is a rational person capable of seeing the goal. He is capable of a great deal and probably understands that he can do nothing without Ukraine.

One simple thing needs to be understood: There is in the world one state—Ukraine—and no one knows of such a state as Crimea. Neither the president nor the prime minister of any European state will ever meet either with Meshkov or with Saburov. If problems are to be resolved with the aid of the attraction of foreign capital (and they will not otherwise be resolved today), this can be done only via Ukraine, of which Crimea is a part, and we are prepared for this, and I will do everything to ensure that this be done.

But on one condition: Let us get down to business. If there are to be referenda, slogans—to whom does Crimea belong—it will be difficult for us. I do not wish to discuss political questions in respect to Crimea today, therefore, I wish to discuss only economic matters—and here I will even go above and beyond the limit.

[Gavrileva] The following question is appropriate here: What is your attitude toward a possible ruble zone in Crimea?

[Kravchuk] Only a person who (excuse me, I do not wish to give offense) who has not on these matters made a thorough study of everything or who has been misinformed could talk about this. There cannot be two currency zones in one state. Note the independent state of Belarus (and the leadership of Crimea favors Crimea as an independent state—this is, I believe, the main goal? Drift toward Russia is the second stage).

I am an economist by education, and for this reason I say that unless it has its own currency, no state can exist independently, this is precluded. Belarus is moving into the ruble zone, but Russia has set the condition of conversion of the Belorusian bank into a branch of the Russian bank, and we know under whose jurisdiction a branch comes! So why deceive the Crimeans?

Very well, let us assume that there is to be the ruble in Crimea. But who will supply it? Russia? The ruble is a material value. How many rubles would Crimea need, add it up? Would Russia supply them?

Very well, let us assume even this: Crimea has the ruble. But it is an open border, and the ruble is of greater value than the karbovanets, and tomorrow these rubles would be in Kherson and Nikolayev and would reach Kiev—in any event, they would be laundered from Crimea like lightning. And would Russia agree to Ukraine pumping rubles via Crimea? Would Ukraine here want to convert its state bank into a branch of the Russian bank and to have all political and economic problems decided in Moscow, not in Kiev and Simferopol?

People are unaware of these details. It is said that people would come on vacation here and spend rubles. But would there be that many of these rubles? People would immediately come to Crimea from all the adjacent oblasts and sell the vacationers products that are not available in Crimea and would take away these rubles, and Crimea would get nothing. These are elementary axioms. How much is a health center pass?

[Gavrileva] A lot. Millions.

[Kravchuk] And who would come? Working people? Crimea would become a Mecca for the rich. And what kind of price list would there be in the stores, what kind of exchange rate? This is all based on childish naivete.

[Gavrileva] Leonid Makarovich, do you have a strategy for the development of the economy in Ukraine? The title "open economy regime" has at least crystallized out in Crimea (it is not entirely clear what this means, it is true), but Ukraine does not have even this....

[Kravchuk] Stop at the stores on Kreshchatik, look at the choice of items. A year ago, when Mr. Kuchma was in charge, so to speak, the stores were absolutely bare. Now they are full—no money.

[Gavrileva] This is abnormal also!

[Kravchuk] But this is easier: If there is no money, it has to be earned.

[Gavrileva] Excuse me, but we would not get very far: The journalist here and the journalist in the United States receive totally different pay for their work....

[Kravchuk] I would respond that 80 percent of the newspapers in the United States are private. It is the founder who should pay the wages you deserve.

[Gavrileva] All right, score one to you. Nonetheless, is there a strategy for development of the Ukrainian economy?

[Kravchuk] There is only one path—the path of reforms.

[Gavrileva] What is needed for their implementation?

[Kravchuk] Work to be done locally. I was talking just yesterday with five oblasts: Why is privatization with you not progressing? They replied: We are thinking, we are considering.... You understand, if I (the state) can supply an enterprise with raw material and wages, I keep it. If I cannot, I let it go. Who today in Crimea, for example, is impeding privatization? Myself?

[Gavrileva] We are speaking of the local authorities, hence, it is time to speak about the local councils....

[Kravchuk] ....and the representatives of the president.

[Gavrileva] This institution will be abolished in Ukraine following the elections, incidentally, and the Supreme Council of Ukraine has begun to speak once again of its introduction in Crimea....

[Kravchuk] It is not a question of a representative of the president, but of representation of Ukraine in Crimea. This is what the law says! Crimea has its representation in Kiev—and we should have ours in Crimea, and this is all being cranked up specially.

[Gavrileva] And N. Bagrov had to explain the situation even in this connection in our newspaper.... And how did you personally evaluate the decision of the Supreme Council of Crimea on the undesirability of elections to the local councils in the summer? Perhaps Crimea has shown all of Ukraine the right way?

[Moroz] Are you satisfied with your "team"? How do you select your people?

[Meshkov] According to the principle of professionalism and ability to function in an extreme environment.

[Moroz] But does not your enlistment of Saburov, an individual "from outside," someone from another country no less—does this not imply that you are experiencing a severe personnel shortage?

[Meshkov] No, it does not. Saburov is not "from outside." He is 100 percent Crimean, born in Yalta. But I am not even referring to that. I am not talking about the space defined by the borders of Crimea, but rather the space defined by the borders of Russia. We do not perceive borders as a norm or as a natural condition. Everything not in conformance with objective economic laws, everything that contradicts common sense—is nonviable. On the contrary, we could follow Hegel: Everything rational is real. Everything is standardized and fit into a norm. As far as a shortage of personnel is concerned, the Ukrainian Government might well wish it could boast of specialists in the class, on the level and with the qualifications of Mr. Saburov.

[Moroz] Some people see a certain external resemblance between the two of you...

[Meshkov] (Laughing) In any case, it was not based on any resemblance to me that I invited him to assume the post of deputy prime minister. That is a fact.

[Moroz] What are the main tasks you have set for him?

[Meshkov] To do everything that can be done at this time and in this place to improve the economic situation.

[Moroz] How do you assess this situation?

[Meshkov] It is a catastrophe. A catastrophe colored yellow and blue.

[Moroz] (A small illustration of the president's words with respect to the catastrophic situation in the economy. A cleaning lady in a Simferopol hotel, at which a "CIS-er" [Commonwealth of Independent States] is fleeced to the tune of R40,000 per day for an average room, receives less than R9,000 a month. A civil aviation pilot who retires gets R18,000 in pension. The Crimean president himself, I was told by one of his aides, receives a salary of 1,900,000 karbovantsy. Despite the large number of zeros, this comes to just R82,610 as of the moment of my departure from Crimea last Saturday. Today it is reduced still more, since the coupon/ruble rate keeps falling and falling...—O.M.) You have stated that you intend to return Crimea to the ruble zone.

[Meshkov] I intend to. For us the ruble is a more acceptable means of payment, since our main flow of tourists—people who spend money in Crimea—are citizens of Russia. To provide them normal services, if you will, is one of the most important tasks of our oblast economy, and we will accomplish this task.

[Moroz] But there is no border between Crimea and Ukraine. It would be practically impossible to introduce a currency here different from that used in Ukraine...

[Meshkov] What is going on right now is impossible. Our reality of today is impossible. We are striving to return to a normal condition.

[Moroz] The way I understand it, to do this you would have to violate the laws of Ukraine?

[Meshkov] The laws of Ukraine constitute one of the factors leading to the current economic situation. The results are before you, as they say.

[Moroz] What do you see as the primary cause of the catastrophic situation that has arisen in Ukraine and rushed towards you in a wave?

[Meshkov] The situation is even more desperate than you think. But the primary cause is encroachment, the way they perceive it, upon the sense of national dignity of some nationalists of Western Ukraine, which has led to a general economic collapse of the gigantic European state Ukraine comprises. This is the price that was paid for the realization of nationalist slogans. And it was effected with the full composure, indifference, and silent encouragement of Europe and the United States. The United States became alarmed only when the nationalists put their finger on the nuclear button. While it was clear from the very beginning that this would happen, but now they are saying a Russian nationalist has come to power in Crimea. From where does such delusion come? The dignified magazine ECONOMIST (Paris) publishes an article entitled "The Second Crimean War."

[Moroz] A month and a half has elapsed now since you were elected president. What has this time brought you as leader of the Republic of Crimea? Have there been any unexpected revelations?

[Meshkov] Yes. First of all, the attitude of previous state officials; this is open sabotage. It is nothing obscure or secretive, but rather open and defiant.

[Moroz] You were hoping for something different?

[Meshkov] No, I was not hoping for their assistance, but neither did I expect defiance. I did not expect that it would be so aggressive, clearly antipeople, irrational... and criminal, in the final analysis. That is one thing I did not expect. A second thing was the revelation as to what extent our law enforcement organs are infected with the disease called corruption.

[Moroz] Incidentally, you were forced to leave your position as procuracy investigator for attempting to bring charges against members of the party and administration nomenklatura caught in embezzlement. Do you still have this motivating drive to fight for justice?

[Meshkov] I still have the drive, and my capacities have grown immeasurably.

[Moroz] How do you intend to fight crime? Do you have a specific, precisely defined program?

[Meshkov] Implementation of the program to fight crime runs headlong into a personnel problem, unfortunately. There are insufficient personnel capable of carrying on this fight.

[Moroz] During your time in office have you managed to establish any personal contacts with the leaders of Ukraine and Russia?

[Meshkov] With the leaders of Ukraine—no. Only on the official level. The situation with respect to Russia is directly the reverse.

[Moroz] What do you consider yourself—a Russian or a Ukrainian (your father being Russian and your mother Ukrainian)?

[Meshkov] (Laughing) I consider myself a Don Cossack.

[Moroz] Do you know Ukrainian?

[Meshkov] Yes, I understand it.

[Moroz] Do you read with a dictionary?

[Meshkov] No, I do not need a dictionary. My reading is fluent. But my speaking... I am not about to assert that I speak correct literary language. I speak on the everyday, colloquial level.

[Moroz] What place in your plans of presidential activity is occupied by facilitating resolution of the Black Sea Fleet problem? We know that Russia and Ukraine are resolving it. They are trying to resolve it. However, except for the seamen themselves, it is Crimeans who suffer more than anyone else from a failure to resolve this issue.

[Meshkov] This problem is essentially resolved. The only question is to what extent conditions of the agreement will be conscientiously observed. A readiness to do so is manifest on Russia's part, as far as I am aware. This is not true with respect to Ukraine. The Black Sea Fleet is a Russian fleet. This is natural. It is economically feasible. All the rest will depend on the rational or irrational actions of the other side. For us, the presence of the Black Sea Fleet is a benefit of which it would be a sin not to take advantage.

[Moroz] How is your intention to take Ukrainian armed formations out of Crimea being executed?

[Meshkov] I requested the Ukrainian leadership to remove first of all those troops that were introduced in violation of agreement and the existing order (troops may be introduced only with the consent of the Supreme Council of Crimea). The presence of these forces does not contribute toward normalization of relations between Crimea and Ukraine. In addition, they are occupying a fairly large amount of territory which could be used for economic purposes. Finally, they represent a certain threat to the ecology.

[Moroz] What is the numerical strength of these troops?

[Meshkov] They are fairly large units, unfortunately.

[Moroz] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported about 60,000.

[Meshkov] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA rarely errs in these matters. They have reliable sources.

[Moroz] It is apparent that Crimean Tatars followed the appeals of their leaders and voted against you. Many of them do not recognize you as president. Do you hope to be able to shatter their negative attitude toward you?

[Meshkov] It is incorrect to assert that the Crimean Tatars do not recognize the president. It would be more accurate to state that the leadership of one wing of the national movement of Crimean Tatars entered into alliance with my political opponent and supported him, and when he lost, they declared they did not agree with the one who won. This is not politics. This is not on the political level. It is on the mundane level. It is simply undignified to resolve political problems on the mundane level. As far as support from ordinary citizens of the Republic of Crimea is concerned, a million or more of their votes is more than sufficient to be able to calmly sit down in this chair. And among that million are a great many citizens of Crimean Tatar nationality.

[Moroz] Do you intend to repeal the quota of 14 seats for Crimean Tatars in the parliament, as you promised?

[Meshkov] I did not say I intended to repeal the quota. I said that I do not accept the principle of endowment of political rights according to nationality. I opposed this as a deputy and as candidate for president. And I now oppose it as president. It is a flagrant violation of international law and universal standards, but I have no intention of repealing what has already come about.

[Moroz] Do you sense any action on the part of the special services? Are they watching you?

[Meshkov] (Laughing) Well, beginning from a certain time and at a certain level of political and state activity, this is inevitable.

[Moroz] How do you evaluate Khrushchev's unforgettable decision to transfer Crimea to Ukraine?

[Meshkov] One in a series of delirious inventions and decisions. It has nothing to do with common sense or with man's treatment of his fellow man. But from the legal and judicial point of view, the issue is decided. The acts of 1954 were declared invalid as of the moment of their adoption. Thus, everything is normal in this aspect. The only thing that remains is to return to common sense and universal concepts.

Official: Kravchuk Shows 'Understanding'

LD2903183094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk held talks in Kiev today with Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov. After the talks finished, Saburov gave an exclusive interview to a correspondent of the Ostankino radio and television company.

[Begin Saburov recording] We spoke about specific things connected with the need to begin economic reforms in Crimea. The situation is extremely difficult, extremely difficult. So we will hasten to take the measures to enable us to adopt a law on the division of powers between Ukraine and Crimea. We will act within the framework of Ukraine's law. Of course, not all of Ukraine's legislation facilitates reforms. Let us state this frankly. This is obvious from the standard of living both in Kiev and Crimea—it needs to be improved. If the reforms in Russia are sometimes cursed for having reduced the standard of living there, I would advise the critics to come to Ukraine and see what happens when reforms are not carried out. It is a terrible situation. On the whole, the president's attitude toward our proposals was one of complete understanding, and since he is the upholder of the law, all of our activities carried out within the framework of the law will naturally be supported by him. [end recording]

Deputy Premier Satisfied With Meeting

LD2903204994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Russian economist recently appointed deputy prime minister of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea expressed satisfaction with a meeting he had with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Yevgeniy Saburov told INTERFAX-Ukraine that the meeting, held on Tuesday, focused on "general aspects of

the relations between Ukraine and Crimea." At the same time, "a fairly concrete matter was (also) given consideration, the beginning of economic reform in Crimea." "Since that matter doesn't contradict the law on the sharing of powers between Ukraine and Crimea, there couldn't have been much friction," Saburov said.

Asked whether the relationship between Ukraine and its autonomous republic could be based on a treaty, he said, "this would eliminate the problem of (Crimea's) secession (from Ukraine)."

As for the possibility of using the Russian ruble in Crimea, Saburov said, "cash rubles are in circulation in Crimea anyway, as they are in Kiev, for that matter." He said the Crimean government planned to shortly open ruble bank accounts for the autonomous republic's enterprises. "As for the idea that Russian Central Bank rubles could be poured into the economy of Crimea, who will give them to us?" Saburov said.

He said granting him Ukrainian citizenship was "under consideration." Saburov, who is a Russian citizen but needs Ukrainian citizenship to carry out his duties as deputy premier, said he favored dual citizenship for Crimea's population.

UNA Activist Outlines Political Situation

WS2903135594 Lvov RATUSHA in Ukrainian 10 Mar 94 p 1, 2

[Interview with Anatoliy Lupynis, head of the political department of the Ukrainian National Assembly, by Lyubomyra Blazhko; place and date not given: "If Only They Were Held..."]

[Excerpts] Our interlocutor is Anatoliy Lupynis, poet from Kiev. Some time ago, for his nationalist convictions, he had the good fortune to be imprisoned by our democratic authorities; he was also subject to repression by the communists. Today, he is head of the political department of the Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA]. He has never put forward his candidacy for a people's deputy seat, because he thinks the soviets are still soviets.

[Blazhko] Mr. Lupynis, how can you explain the present government's repressions against the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNA-UNSO]?

[Lupynis] It happened due to the fact that Ukraine has already lost 99 percent of its gains in the referendum held on 1 December 1992.

The attack on UNA develops at the time when nuclear weapons are being transferred, our territory is being given up, and our highest state leadership has testified to its full incapability of opposing pressure from world imperial circles. In such a situation, all political organizations involved in ruling structures are participating in the process of Ukraine's surrender. All of them are engaged in sucking Ukraine's blood; during the past two years, a significant part of our national wealth has been transferred abroad, while not a cent has been received in return. Under such circumstances, the only force capable of resisting this is the UNA-UNSO. It is the only organization which has a mechanism for combating profiteering, firmly opposes the surrendering of our state, and is ready to stand to the last to prevent such developments.

I say "the only organization" not because of my alignment to it. Today, power is exercised jointly by traitors and thieves; today's power is an association of these two categories of criminals.

The UNA, which emerged as a nationalist organization and adheres to the principles of Ukrainian revolutionary nationalism, has come to the conclusion that, given the current circumstances, it would have been wrong to neglect social problems and break away with real processes in Ukraine. Therefore, UNA works for both forming national forces and uniting all social groups which are interested in true nation building, production, and the creation of normal living conditions for our people.

Today, Ukrainian society is divided into two groups uneven in both number and profit. The former is a group in power, which knows that its time will soon be over; therefore, it tries to sell abroad everything and reap as much as possible, transferring profits to accounts abroad. If a catastrophe were to happen in Ukraine, they would be cozily reading Ukrainian news somewhere in Miami. The latter includes all those who are interested in producing goods, establishing order, and building a real state. The Assembly aims at uniting all forces that are interested in producing goods, building the state, and creating a real defensive capacity, that is, at uniting all productive forces to abolish the power of profiteers. [passage omitted]

[Blazhko] The people do not believe anybody by now. Can you guarantee that the UNA will not betray the people?

[Lupynis] The UNA will not betray the people, because we are not democrats—we are not playing this hypocritical game. We assess reality soberly and adequately. We are not going to fool the people with any law-governed states. I think that only an infantile man or a deliberate political charlatan can discuss democracy in this Mongolian and Bolshevik country. By all appearances, it will take several generations to install democracy here. Nobody has ever built a democratic society and law-governed state. Democracy is a state of society, which is attained as a result of the long-term establishment of moral, religious, ethical, and legal norms. [passage omitted]

Black Sea Fleet Command Accused of Covering Up Corruption

LD2903163394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1235 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Sevastopol—Rear-Admiral Mykola Kostrov, deputy commander of Ukraine's Navy, who was at one time appointed by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry as chairman of the ministry's commission for inventory of the Black Sea Fleet assets, gave UNIAN his opinion about why such a commission was not set up by the Russian Defense Ministry. In his view, Russia is purposefully delaying the setting up of the commission, as well as the launch of the joint fleet review. One of the main reasons, the rear-admiral believes, is that "someone stands to lose from disclosing the facts of illegal use of property and funds, which unfortunately does happen in the Black Sea Fleet, and therefore, does not think it desirable." Mykola Kostrov recalled that the Black Sea Fleet command recently did all it could to prevent the commission, which arrived from Kiev and Moscow, from starting an inspection of one of the Black Sea Fleet fuel bases. Despite the commission's wide powers, the fleet command explained their actions saying that they were subordinate only to the two presidents, of Russia and Ukraine. They do, though, as a rule, obey orders, directives, and instructions coming from Russia's Defense Ministry and Navy headquarters.

Meanwhile, the rear admiral stressed, the delay of the commissions' work only tightens the knot of the Black Sea Fleet problems.

Belarus

Corruption Commission To Urge Dismissal of Top Officials

WS2903133794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1207 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Supreme Soviet Interim Commission for Fighting Corruption has adopted a draft resolution that provides for dismissing Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich, National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich, Deputy Prime Ministers Stanislaw Bryl and Mikalay Kostsikaw, Uladzimir Radkevich, chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Relations, and Defense Minister Pavel Kazlowski, "in connection with failing to adopt appropriate measures for protecting the economic interests of the state in relations with commercial organizations, as well as failing to enforce the existing law." The draft resolution was worked out at the 29 March meeting of the commission, and will submitted to the Supreme Soviet for consideration on 30 March, following a speech by Alyaksandr Lukashenka. As BELAPAN has learned, the commission has prepared a list of another 60 people to be dismissed. Among them is also Foreign Minister Petr Krawchanka.

Ministers Demand Official Opinion on Legitimacy of Charges

WS2903185394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] We have received from BELINFORM the text of a declaration signed by two deputy prime ministers and the ministers of defense, foreign affairs, and external economic relations. In this declaration, the officials reject the accusations made public by People's Deputy Alyaksandr Lukashenka in various mass media. In this regard, the declaration's authors insist that the Belarusian prosecutor general publicly make an official written assessment of the legitimacy of Lukashenka's actions, the declaration emphasized, and the accuracy of information concerned their alleged activities.

Presidential Elections Scheduled for 23 Jun

WS3003104394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Supreme Soviet session is currently being held behind closed doors. As our correspondent has learned, deputies have focused their attention on the monetary-credit policy. Probably, we will be able to tell you about the adopted decisions, however, only approximately, because this issue, according to the parliament speaker, is secret.

This day can be considered, to certain degree, momentous in the work of the 13th session of the Supreme Soviet. Deputies have finally scheduled the presidential elections—this event has been scheduled for 23 June 1994, for a regular working weekday. However, it used to be a regular working day—it will be proclaimed a holiday, and we will have to make our choice.

At today's session, deputies also discussed legislation on the Belarusian Constitutional Court and adopted a resolution on implementing it.

President's Law on Elections Adopted

LD2903172294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 29 Mar, TASS—A law on elections of the Belarusian president was approved today in the second reading by 215 parliament deputies to be introduced on Wednesday, 30 March.

Under the law, a citizen aging over 35, enjoying the electoral right and Belarusian resident for no less than ten years can be elected president for five years and no more than two terms.

The presidential elections shall be universal, equal and direct. The president shall be elected by Belarusian citizens aging over 18.

The right to nominate a presidential candidate will be enjoyed by those who manage to collect signatures of no less than 70 parliament deputies or no less than 100,000 signatures of Belarusian citizens. The nomination of presidential candidates shall start 75 days before the elections and end 40 days before the voting.

Under the law, candidates for Belarusian president shall equally participate in the election campaign since the time of their registration by the central commission for presidential elections and enjoy equal rights to the use of mass media.

All the registered presidential candidates shall have equal possibilities of material-technical and financial provision of their election campaign. During the election campaign the candidates can be freed from their service duties and preserve an average salary.

If the ballot sheet includes no less than two presidential candidates and neither of them is elected, there will be repeated elections with repeated nomination of candidates.

The Belarusian president shall be considered elected if his candidature was supported by over 50 per cent of participants in the elections.

Kebich Optimistic on Monetary Union

PM2903125394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "Kebich Praises Russian Parliament, While Belorusian Communists Are Already Collaborating Closely With Duma"]

[Text] Minsk—The problem of the unification of the monetary systems has moved definitively from an economic plane onto a political one in Belorusia [Belarus].

Parliament has finally decided to turn the "hare" [Belarusian currency unit] into a lion, in other words to designate the Belorusian ruble as the only means of payment on the Republic's territory until the actual unification of the monetary systems. But Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich upset the applecart the day before by initialing a draft decree establishing new status for the settlement notes [raschetnyy bilet] of the National Bank of Belorusia. Journalists were asked to leave the Supreme Soviet hall before the latest decisive speech by the head of the government. Nevertheless, IZVESTIYA has acquired a transcript of Vyacheslav Kebich's speech.

The prime minister started by saying that he had accused Kovalin, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, and Kazmin, Russian deputy minister of finance, of attempting to wreck the unification. According to Kebich, they have made amendments to the documents which had been coordinated by experts and distorted their meaning. As a result, fundamental differences have appeared in the sides' positions on the following questions: the rate of exchange of Belorusian cash rubles for Russian rubles, the equalization of the price of deliveries of output between subjects of economic activity, the unification of the budgets, and the status of the National Bank of Belorusia. According to the head of the Belorusian Government, the first two differences can be resolved easily, but the political aspects (that is specifically how the proposals on the single budget and the abolition of the National Bank of Belorusia are viewed) are unacceptable to the Republic. Despite this, Kebich stated with characteristic optimism that the monetary union would be signed in the near future, by 1 April to be precise.

It is interesting that the Russian parliament provides the main hopes for the Belorusian supporters of the unification. The prime minister, who spoke very warmly about it, literally stated the following: "Sittings of all factions of the State Duma are being held now, at this very moment, about immediately signing this treaty." And he went on to say: "The unification must be signed and a president elected, otherwise the people will simply not understand what we are doing." The reference to popular opinion sounds fairly amusing from the lips of the prime minister, since nowadays it is no secret to anyone that he has a personal interest in this game. Kebich is calculating that the first positive results of the unification will enable him to occupy the presidential post. And if he is not making a show of this in public, then he expressed himself fairly definitely at the closed sitting.

While the prime minister was persuading Belorusian parliamentarians that the monetary systems should be unified, the Russians were being persuaded by a delegation of the procommunist People's Movement of Belorusia. The actual fact of its trip to Moscow cannot fail to cause surprise: On what grounds is a sociopolitical organization conducting talks with the supreme legislative organ of another country? Inasmuch as no one has officially authorized the Belorusian Communists to carry out this action, it is logical to assume that the trip took place thanks to close ties at party level.

The results of this visit, as well as the arrival of Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Federation Council Finance Committee, and the unequivocal support he expressed for the agreement on the unification of the monetary systems has strengthened the Belorusian Government, which had been on the point of becoming dispirited.

Meanwhile, another view of the problem exists outside of the government. Leonid Kozik, chairman of the Belorusian Supreme Soviet Commission for Economic Reform, told journalists that the unification process will be drawn out over a fairly long period of time. National Bank Chairman Stanislav Bogdankevich expressed himself even more definitely, calling on the population to "stop waiting," because "this business would just fizzle out."

Nevertheless, the Belorusian Government has the chance to sign the agreement; but at what price? The answer to this question was provided in the agreement on the amalgamation of "Beltransgaz," the state enterprise for the transportation and deliveries of gas, with Russia's "Gazprom" Joint-Stock Association, which was submitted to the Supreme Soviet for ratification. Under the agreement, the value of the property of the Belorusian enterprise has been estimated at 1,000,217,000 rubles (that is approximately how much it now costs to build one multiapartment housing block). According to independent experts' estimates, "Beltransgaz" is worth at least $5 billion. Thus, one of the political groupings intends to pay for its prosperity with a state asset. Not only that, the government press is already very actively discussing the idea of giving up sovereignty.

One way or another, it is already clear that the stories about the unification of the monetary systems, like the ones about the friendly union of fraternal peoples which will give rise to a land of milk and honey, are not well founded. The reality is that it is each man for himself today, and if the unification does nevertheless take place, there is no point in expecting gifts from Russia. And the question of whether an entrance fee proves its worth remains a big one.

Talks on Antimissile Systems Held With U.S., Russia

WS3003082594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] As a BELINFORM correspondent has learned at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry Information Department, the 47th session of the Permanent Consultative Commission for Cooperating in Implementation of the Treaty on Reduction of Antimissile Defense Systems has begun in Geneva. Those in attendance are delegations of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and the United States, as well as a Latvian representative as an observer.

Moldova

Snegur Meets World Bank Experts on Privatization

AU2903130194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2142 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/3/1994—President Snegur met today with a group of experts from the World Bank (WB), says a Presidential Press Service communique. Moldova has sufficient credibility in the eyes of the World Bank's Coordinating Council and due to this it has granted Moldova $300 million credit so far. Teodor Stolojan, World Bank's expert in privatization problems, said that a group of experts representing the executive power and the parliamentary commissions should be organized during the formation of new government. This group will discuss the privatization program for 1994-95. In Stolojan's opinion, "it is very important to take decisions at already solved in other countries," says the communique. Leonid Talmaci, Moldovan National Bank Governor, pointed out that the WB had reduced the interest rate for its credits due to a decrease of inflation to 10 percent in early March. President Snegur said that in his speech to the new parliament he will emphasize specifically the promotion of economic reforms in pace with a program for the social assistance of vulnerable groups. Snegur noted that it is difficult to attain these objectives and this is due to the conservatism of certain enterprises' managers and oppositionist speculations. He said the opposition manipulates the population in a difficult moment with a well-defined aim to gain political capital, says the communique.

Snegur Calls for Strengthening Statehood

LD2903205194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has said that the main goal of the new parliament and the whole nation should be strengthening the Republic's statehood. Speaking before the newly elected parliament Tuesday, he said society expected the new legislature to ensure further development and strengthening of the state in the interests of all its citizens, regardless of their origin or faith.

Snegur pointed out that various political forces had appeared on Moldova's political scene after the collapse of totalitarian rule. At the moment, they are divided into supporters of strengthening Moldova's statehood and independence, supporters of the unification with Romania and supporters of the republic's return to a reborn empire.

In the meantime, the Moldovan people firmly supported Moldova's development as an independent democratic state at the sociological poll on 6 March, Snegur said. The outcomes of the poll must be law for everyone, he said pointing out that "a state cannot be built on the basis of an idea which splits and polarizes society."

Snegur pointed to the top priority of such goals as the adoption of a new constitution, preservation of Moldova's territorial integrity, resolution of the issues of Transdniester and Gagauz-populated areas, democratization of society and enhancing economic reforms.

Snegur also proposed a special law be adopted against insulting Moldova as a state.

Russian Army Warns Dniester on 'Provocations'

LD2903152994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS nonstaff correspondent Anatoliy Kholodyuk]

[Text] Tiraspol (Dniester Province) 29 Mar, TASS—The command of the 14th Russian Army deployed in Moldova's self-style Dniester Province, has warned Dniester leaders against what it called "political provocations."

The military command issued a statement on Tuesday [29 March] retaliating a recent amendment to the Dniester laws which declared all Army weapons, equipment and other hardware belonging to Tiraspol.

"Tiraspol actually provokes seizure of the 14th Army's weapons and equipment," the statement said and qualified the actions of Dniester leaders as "demonstrating extreme disrespect towards the Russian Federation and its peace-keeping efforts in the region."

The Army command demanded the annulment of the "provocative" amendment.

Parliament Opens, Elects President, Vice President

AU2903150294 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The new parliament of the Republic of Moldova began its activity this morning. President Mircea Snegur, members of the government, representatives of diplomatic corps, and numerous journalists were present.

The report was read out on the final results of the elections and the Supreme Court decision regarding the approval of the elections. Then, the list was presented of the names of the 104 deputies elected to the new parliament, among whom was Ilie Ilascu, a deputy for the Christian Democratic Popular Front Alliance, who could not be present because he is still imprisoned.

According to reports by our Chisinau correspondent, Cristian Nita, Petru Lucinschi was elected as parliamentary president and Dumitru Motpan, leader of the Agrarian Democratic Party, and Nicolae Andronic, representing the same party, were elected as vice presidents.

Luchinsky Elected Parliament Speaker

LD2903115894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1123 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev 29 Mar, TASS—Petr Luchinskiy, a leader of the Agrarian Democratic Party that won the preterm parliamentary elections in February, was elected speaker of the Moldovan parliament on Tuesday. He was elected by a secret ballot, earning 57 votes. There were 43 votes against, and two ballots were found invalid.

Luchinsky is 54 years old. In perestroika years he was first secretary of the Central Committee of the Moldovan Communist Party, secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, CPSU. He was elected speaker of the previous Moldovan parliament after an acute parliamentary crisis last year. The parliament, torn by contradictions, had to be dissolved.

It is the first time that a Moldovan parliament has been formed on a multiparty basis. It will include 104 deputies. The Agrarian Democratic Party will have parliamentary majority, 56 deputies.

Agrarians believe that the legislative body should above all adopt a new constitution, create a legislative base for economic reform, and resolve the Dniester and Gagauz problems through granting special legal status to these territories.

Communist Party Refused Registration for 'Time Being'

PM3003092494 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 1

[Report from "In Brief" column by PRAVDA correspondents and ITAR-TASS: "Registration Refused for the Time Being"]

[Text] The Republic's Justice Ministry has refused to register the party of Communists of Moldova. However, the Republic Supreme Court, to which the communists' initiative group appealed, deemed the Justice Ministry's decision unlawful. After some amendments to the founding documents, Moldavia's [Moldova's] communists will make a new attempt at registration.

Leaders of Parliamentary Factions Discuss Future Tasks

AU2903130894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2143 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 28/3/1994—Today, the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] distributed to the new deputies their mandates certifying their legal election to the Parliament. Tomorrow, after presenting its report in Parliament, the CEC will finish the activity, stated its president Nicolae Timofte. Dumitru Motpan, PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova] leader, told BASAPRESS that the first Parliamentary session will probably be opened by the most senior member, Artiom Lazarev (the Block of the Socialist Party and "Unitate-Edinstvo" Movement). First of all, the new Parliamentary Speaker, the Vice-Speakers and the permanent commissions will be titled; after that, the Parliamentary guidelines will be announced, said Motpan. Projects of the Constitution and of the special juridical status for the Eastern and Southern regions will be debated, along with economic questions. The PDAM will propose ex-speaker Petru Lucinschi for Speaker and for Premier, Andrei Sangheli, the present premier, said Motpan. Valeriu Senic, leader of the Socialist Party, declared to BASAPRESS that his faction has already proposed for the first session a draft decision for suspending the Governmental decision on the linguistic attestation. In Senic's view, priority will be given to the ratification of the CIS Economic Union document and to regional problems in Eastern and Southern Moldova. Alexandru Mosanu, leader of the Block of Peasants and Intellectuals, told BASAPRESS that his faction will insist on the adoption of a new agenda of the session reflecting the crucial priorities; such problems as the granting of a special status to Dniestr cannot be solved until after the ratification of the new Constitution. The concept proposed for the forming of the new parliament with the specification "13th since the first Supreme Soviet of Moldova" is inadmissible in principle, as the Parliament elected on Friday 27th is not a constitution of the Moldovan Socialist Soviet Republic Supreme Soviet. A basic task of the opposition will be the defense of democracy and liberties which have been established and the promotion of radical reforms, already being slowed now by forces that form the Parliamentary majority, said Mosanu. Lurie Rosca, leader of the Christian Democratic Popular Front, declared that his faction will demand from the very first session efficient actions for the release of deputy Ilie Ilascu. Rosca asserted that the Parliamentary and Governmental leadership will be "monochrome," and the opposition factions will be marginalized.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Interviewed on Russian-Kazakh Relations

LD2903213294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Interview with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev by unidentified correspondent in Almaty on 29 March; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] How do you assess those questions that are still to be solved in Russian-Kazakh relations? We have signed about two dozen various agreements and treaties. What still lies ahead? There are bottlenecks, complicated areas, etc., but there are prospects, there are things where further efforts—very serious ones—need to be undertaken. What spheres and areas do you see in this direction?

[Nazarbayev] Since our big treaty, as it is being called, the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid signed between Kazakhstan and Russia in 1992, where everything that we have accomplished today was written, it may be considered that this is the concrete development of the big agreement that was ratified by both parliaments. Therefore, these 24 documents—23 documents—which we signed, they give concrete expression to it. I am particularly pleased, for example, that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and I agreed to set up a joint economic commission that will be headed, from both our and the Russian side, by deputy prime ministers who will in turn take the chair every half-year, first in Moscow and then in Alma-Ata [Almaty]. They will be obliged, every quarter and every half-year, to report to the governments and presidents on how these accords are being fulfilled.

An exhaustive number of documents were signed; for example, [the document] on defense cooperation does not require further development; on Baykonur, we came to a final decision on this question; on deepening economic cooperation, we still have to solve questions of customs space and on duty quotas between our states, setting up joint industrial-finance groups; on joint enterprises, the shares of Kazakh enterprises may be acquired by Russian enterprises, and vice-versa. Well, on these things the government has been given a period of one month in which specific agreements must be signed. But life being what it is, an agreement must be put into operation, the mechanism must be applied; certain problems may arise that we will tackle.

Other matters were left to one side and that is why I invited Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to Alma-Ata. He accepted my invitation and I think that it [the meeting] will take place in the summer, and we will develop these relations still further.

[Correspondent] Nursultan Abishevich, a very important dimension, not only in bilateral relations, but also for every state, is the human dimension. The priority of the individual, the priority of the rights of the individual, and freedoms—this is indisputable. Today, we are striving to push forward to this, although it is complicated both for Russia and for Kazakhstan, indeed for any country. It has its problems. How did you see interaction in this direction—not only in terms of bilateral efforts but also within the CIS framework, and perhaps to move more widely, after all our country [Russia] and Kazakhstan are in many ways linked with the CSCE, and in many ways we belong both to Europe and to Asia, and this sense of two continents, how can this, let us say, take shape in terms of forms, of tools of interaction in human terms?

[Nazarbayev] I understand what you mean. There used to be one state—the Soviet Union. It split up into what are now 15 states, whose people used to live in one homeland, one country, and have found themselves the citizens of 15 states. But it would not be correct to say that the people do not have problems, because people are concerned, people are worried. Previously, there was no problem about where one's son lived, where one's father lived, where one was coming and going. Now all these problems have arisen. We really are faced with problems of the Russian people living in all of the Republics. And questions have arisen of the 1 million Kazakhs living in Russia. So, if you are speaking of our human relations, I believe that this is one of our main questions. And in the memorandum on citizenship that we signed—and I would like to answer the first part of your question and then move on to the other part—we said that there should be special interrelations between Kazakhstan and Russia, as I have always said. We did not make these up, they developed through history, and to pass on these relations which we have had to our children and grandchildren is a task for the politicians—for us.

Therefore, we said that if someone in Kazakhstan moves to Russia, he should be able to obtain citizenship there without question, without any delays. If he comes back to Kazakhstan, or a Russian decides to move to Kazakhstan permanently, he must be able to obtain citizenship straightaway. In other words, an individual must have freedom of choice as to where he wishes to live. At the same time, there should be no obstacles in the way of how he sells his house, takes away the property he has acquired, and so on, during the period of the move. I think that this worries people, and the most important thing is to alleviate this concern.

Secondly, you correctly said that we are situated at the meeting point of Europe and Asia, especially in Kazakhstan, in the very center of Asia. Therefore, our sense of multipolarity in our economic relations is clear because Kazakhs have, as we know, have always belonged to the Islamic culture, although I do not think we have such a strong sense of religion, so to speak. Now, as in Russia, where there are about 20 million Turkic Muslims, and 50 million Turkic Muslims live in Central Asia—the Asian part—therefore, it is also necessary for them to be identified with and to seek out their historic culture and roots in these states. Therefore, situated between China

and Russia, in the south of the Muslim world, we are trying to be multipolar. I think—this is my opinion—and Russia's, too, that to have equally effective relations, both with Europe and Asia, this is, it seems to me, a correct policy that we are pursuing.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Discusses Policy With Foreign Ministry Staff

LD2903205394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovsky]

[Text] At a meeting with the Turkmenian Foreign Ministry's staff President Saparmurad Niyazov pointed out that "Turkmenia has its own ways of development and its own model of democracy. We are building an open society in which all human rights will be respected. Each citizen can voice his/her opinion, but when a majority takes a decision, a minority should follow."

Niyazov expressed regret that until now Western countries continue to accuse Turkmenia of violating human rights and the lack of democracy. "I am convinced that there is no more democratic state than ours nowadays," he stated.

According to the president, there is not a single political prisoner in the republic, anybody can organize a party, "if its has regulations, program, supporters and if it acts within the framework of the constitution and the law."

Speaking about priorities in the foreign policy, Niyazov again stressed that Turkmenia will cooperate with Russia on an equal basis "whatever the power in Moscow." In the president's opinion, "it is necessary to choose five-six states for having close relations with them." Among these Niyazov named all countries neighboring Turkmenistan. "The break-off in relations with them will lead to damage for each side."

Niyazov also said that every CIS meeting passes "hard" for him and that he feels "pressing." Particularly, when proposals come in on Turkmenia's more active role in the Tajik and Abkhaz issues and on the entry in military or economic unions. In his opinion, today many states on the territory of the former Soviet Union facing problems after gaining independence cannot cope and start to support the ideas of creating some coordinating centers and structures. "Turkmenia will pursue its policy without entering any alliances," Niyazov pointed out.

The president urged diplomats to clearly see the goals of the state and to trust the government policy and be able to explain to representatives of other countries.

In conclusion, Niyazov approved a resolution on the ministry and its top officials. In the resolution he excluded only articles "on the organizational and methodical control by the Foreign Ministry over foreign economic activites of ministries and departments" and "on the obligatory implementation of Foreign Ministry's resolutions on foreign policy by ministries and departments."

Outlines Armed Forces Reorganization Plan

LD3003092694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] A reorganization of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces is soon to start in the Republic. The basic principles of the reorganization were set out at an expanded session of the country's Defense Council by President Saparmurad Niyazov. It provides for the establishment of the Defense Council and a National Security Council, a General Staff and Headquarters of the Armed Forces and rear services. The numerical strength of the country's Armed Forces is to be cut in line with the principle of essential defense sufficiency. Niyazov stressed the particular role of Russian officers in forming the Turkmen Army and noted the coincidence of the strategic interests of Turkmenistan and Russia.

Armenia

U.S. Envoy Cited on American Opposition to Plant

NC3003061994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan today received the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Harry Gilmore, with whom he discussed economic issues. The improvement in the taxation system and American experts' assistance in this direction, the American contribution to spring agricultural work, and other problems were discussed. They also touched upon ways to find a political settlement to the Karabakh conflict. The CSCE Minsk Group and Russia's important efforts in this regard were stressed.

The prime minister also referred to the reoperation of the Armenian nuclear plant and to the position of the U.S. official organs.

The ambassador noted that those Americans opposing the reopening of the Armenian nuclear plant are not informed about the power situation in Armenia. They are worried that the safety of the nuclear plant is not up to the desired level therefore they will not assist with its reopening.

Gilmore handed Bagratyan a letter from the president of the International Organization of Science and Technology inviting Armenia to join the international organization.

Azeri Shelling Causes Deaths, Injuries

NC2903142594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The Armenian Defense Ministry press service informed us that they have no new information to add to the report issued this morning. According to this morning's report, the Azerbaijani Army fiercely bombarded Choratan, Artsvaberd, Movses, and Aygepar in Tavushskiy Rayon and the defensive positions around these villages with Grad rockets, tanks, and howitzers between 1650-1720 yesterday. The shelling caused destruction, deaths, and injuries.

The situation remained tense on the borders of Idzhevanskiy and Noyemberyanskiy rayons between 1830-2315. The Azerbaijani border troops fired towards Diran, Voskepar, and (?Sosi) using tanks, artillery, and infantry fighting vehicles. The shelling caused some injuries in Noyemberyanskiy.

This periodic aggression proves that, as a rule, Azerbaijan uses the relative calm on the Armenian borders to prepare for new border violations.

The Armenian Army's fighters had no choice but to retaliate in kind in all directions yesterday evening to force the Azerbaijanis stop the shelling.

The situation was calm on Armenia's borders during the night and this morning. [passage omitted]

Situation in Karabakh: After having suffered a major defeat in the direction of Agdam on eastern front yesterday, the Azerbaijani Army carried out a massive rocket and artillery bombardment of Karabakh positions in that sector this morning. The artillery shelling was still continuing at 0900. Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army headquarters press service reported that the Karabakh formations are taking countermeasures.

The situation was relatively calm on the remainder of the front.

No Comment From Government on Iran's Note

LD2903205494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Armenia's leadership has so far made no comments on an Iranian Foreign Ministry note saying the Iranian C-130 military transport aircraft which crashed in Nagorno-Karabakh on March 17 was shot down by Armenian detachments.

Sources in the president's office and Foreign Ministry of Armenia declined to comment on the note, reported by the news media on Monday, since, they said, the Armenian Government had not yet received it.

Azerbaijan

Results of Nagorno-Karabakh Talks Detailed

NC2903182694 Baku TURAN in English 1608 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 29) TURAN—The meeting of Azerbaijan's and Armenia's experts as well as the representatives of Armenian and Azeri communities of Nagorno-Karabakh took place on March 20-25 through the mediation of Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The talks were chaired by Russian President's special envoy on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Vladimir Kazimirov. Deputy Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group, Mathias Mosberg, and the leaders of the CSCE monitoring mission, General Burg and Berkman also participated at the meeting.

The expert of Azeri delegation, Tofik Zulfugarov, told TURAN that the mediator presented its draft of the agreement to both parties.

The draft stipulates for cease-fire and liberation of territories occupied by Armenia.

"It was difficult to find agreements with Armenia since it does not wish to liberate Kelbadzharskiy and Lachinskiy regions of Azerbaijan. The experts discussed the draft of the agreement proposed by Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The draft must be reviewed by the mediator taking into account several amendments and then will be presented to Azerbaijan's and Armenia's top powers as

well as to the leaders of Azerbaijan's and Armenia's communities of Karabakh", said Zulfugarov.

Armenian experts insisted on liberation of a part of Azerbaijan's occupied territories with exception of Lachinskiy and Kelbadzharskiy regions. Those two regions will be liberated if Nagorno-Karabakh exists as a sovereign republic.

Azeri party offered the opposite, that is liberation of all territories occupied by Armenian troops and then Azerbaijan's and Armenia's communities will decide the matter concerning the status of Nagorno-Karabakh themselves. However, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be maintained.

Last week [as received] Kazimirov's and Mosberg's missions will arrive in Azerbaijan, reports Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Russia To Offer New Plan To Resolve Conflict

NC2903184994 Baku TURAN in English 1608 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 29) TURAN—In the near future Russia will present a new plan on settlement of the conflict, said special envoy of Russian President, Vladimir Kazimirov. He said that the consultations of the experts of warring parties were conducted constructively. Kazimirov mentioned that the first and the foremost condition is complete cease-fire and then liberation of occupied territories. Then Kazimirov said that they could not find agreements on several points of the agreement since they can be settled by the top echelons of power.

Kazimirov said that "the parties can achieve peace using only stage-by-stage settlement plan". At the same time Kazimirov said that "unfortunately, both parties do not refuse to settle the matter using military way".

Armenian Attack on Agdamskiy Region Reported

NC2903145294 Baku TURAN in English 0945 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 28) TURAN—Last night the Armenian army launched an attack towards the Agdamskiy region of Azerbaijan, reports the press centre of Azerbaijan Defense Ministry. The Armenian army has 10 units of military hardware and 200 infantry-men. Earlier the Armenian army shelled positions belonging to the Azeri Army. The same source reports that the Azeri Army managed to thwart the attack and were able to liberate the villages of Garagashly and Shirvanly in the Agdamskiy region. The Armenian army lost military technique [equipment] as well as lives.

This morning the Armenian army launched an attack towards the village of Geytepe which is 10 km to the north-east of Agdam. The Azeri army destroyed one Armenian tank. Fighting in this direction continues.

Positions of the Azeri Army at the southern section of the front have been shelled as well.

At the same time villages in the Tauzskiy region of Azerbaijan have been shelled from Armenian's military bases located on the territory of Armenia's Berdskiy region. Damages have been reported.

Attacks Said Being Repulsed

NC2903201894 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1818 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Despite enemy's frequent change of positions along the entire front in recent days, their firing positions are being silenced with effective return fire.

Based on the daily reports of the republic's Defense Ministry, we can say that the enemy offensives last week ended in failure. The tension first arose on our borders with Armenia and around Fizuli. But the enemy's hasty offensive did not achieve its objective. Fizuli and Alikhanly were the targets of this attack. The enemy was forced to retreat with losses. At least 20 Armenian soldiers were killed near our positions around Ashagi-Seyidakhmedly. The operations around Goradiz were also successful. Our artillery destroyed two enemy vehicles full of troops.

But all these events have not deterred the ferocious enemy from pursuing its objective; only the zone of confrontation is changing. The enemy is concentrating its real force and military equipment on our northwestern borders. The settlements in Tauzskiy and Kazakhskiy rayons have been coming under intensive shelling for the last three days. The occupation army's acts were not left unanswered. Despite shifts in the locus of its attacks, the enemy is unable to resist our army's counterattacks. As a result, Shirvanly and Garagashly in Agdamskiy Rayon were liberated. Many other cities are awaiting similar liberation and many cities still suffer the enemy's occupation. But every inch of these lands is waiting and relying on your effort and skill, O Azerbaijani soldier.

Conflicting Reports on Attack

LD2903205294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] [Announcer] Over the last 24 hours fierce fighting has been going on nonstop on the southeast front in Nagorno-Karabakh, in the direction of Fizuli and Agdam.

[Unidentified correspondent] According to the press service of the army of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic, yet another attempt has been made to break through a 60-kilometer section of the front in the direction of Agdam. After fierce fighting the people of Karabakh managed to push the enemy back to their original positions.

At present the Karabakh positions along the whole line of the southeast front are under concentrated rocket and artillery shelling from the Azerbaijani artillery. The accumulation of the enemy's manpower and combat equipment is under way.

[Announcer] Meanwhile, Azerbaijani sources report that the offensive is developing successfully. According to the information of the republic's Defense Ministry, the government forces are 10 kilometers away from the rayon center of Agdam.

Fighting Continues in Agdam Area

NC2903203894 Baku TURAN in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 29) TURAN—The past days fierce fightings continued in the north sections of Agdamskiy region. According to the military sources, the Armenian units attempting to penetrate to the Azeri territories continue attacks in the northern direction of Agdam. As the same sources announce that the fightings continue on a variable successes. [sentence as received] Many casualties are reported from the both sides.

At the same time the bordering settlements of the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan once more suffered from the mass firing from the military bases of the Idzhevanskiy and Berd regions of Armenia. There are destructions and wounded.

Papal Nuncio Presents Credentials to Aliyev

NC290 151794 Baku TURAN in English 0925 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 28) TURAN—The Azeri President Geydar Aliyev accepted the Apostolic Nuncio of the Vatican to Azerbaijan, Jean Paul Gobel, who presented his credentials to the President.

Aliyev noted that diplomatic establishment between Vatican and Azerbaijan, as well as the Vatican ambassador's appointment to Azerbaijan "witnesses the attention paid by His Majesty Pope John Paul II to our republic".

Aliyev said that relations between Azerbaijan and the Vatican are a positive development.

Nuncio Gobel in his turn noted that he was very glad to carry out his functions in Azerbaijan. He also expressed his belief that soon he would looks forward to working in Azerbaijan under peaceful conditions.

Parliament Discusses Charges Against PFA

NC2903205094 Baku TURAN in English 1609 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Baku (March 29) TURAN—This morning the meeting of Milli Majlis [National Assembly] resumed. There is an acceptance of the resolution about the events of January 20, 1990 on the agenda. As it was announced that last week Milli Majlis discussed the question for three days, but failed to adopt a final decision.

During today's discussion the Speaker Rasul Guliyev and his deputy Afiaddin Dzhalilov closely support the draft of the document, however the oppositional and independent deputies are against the document.

As it was earlier informed, the aim of the document is to accuse the Popular [People's] Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] as well as the former leadership of Azerbaijan (Mutalibov and Vezirov) in the bloody events of January 1990. However, the number of the deputies supporting the former leadership and the Popular Front of Azerbaijan in today's meeting is considerable.

As TURAN NEWS AGENCY was informed by one of the Milli Majlis members "though President Aliyev and his supporters try to make decisions in favour of their ideas, they will fail".

Parliament Condemns 1990 Soviet Troop 'Reprisal'

LD3003132994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The parliament of Azerbaijan qualified the introduction of Soviet troops in Baku on January 20, 1990 as a reprisal and a grave and unprecedentedly cruel crime against the Azerbaijani people.

The parliament resolution, adopted on March 29, says that the blame for this crime rests entirely with the Soviet authorities, led by Mikhail Gorbachev, and on the Azerbaijani leadership of that time, above all Abdurakhman Vizirov and Viktor Polyanichko, then first and second secretaries of the Azerbaijani Communist Party; Ayaz Mutalibov, the chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Elmira Gafarova, the chairperson of the parliament's presidium, and Vagif Gusseynov, the chairman of Azerbaijan's KGB. Legal action has been initiated against these figures and also against former head of the Azerbaijani KGB's 4th department Nikolay Starchenkov, and Mark Shmotkin, the commander of the Baku Higher Military School, who organized an explosion in the Azerbaijani TV center.

The document also says that legal action against Polyanichko and Gafarova were stopped because of the said figures' death.

Meanwhile, some of the deputies insisted that the list of those guilty of the tragedy shall be supplemented with the names of Yevgeny Primakov, Dmitriy Yazov, Nikolay Kryuchkov and Vadim Bakatin.

Most of the deputies agreed with President Gaydar Aliyev, who said that the blame for the tragedy rests with the former Soviet state.

A leader of the parliamentary opposition Etibar Mamedov believes that the final assessment of the events

in Baku in January 1990, may only be given by a new parliament, not the current one, elected during the rule of communists.

Georgia

'Unofficial' Talks Begin; Fighting Updated

LD2903213794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Unofficial Georgian-Abkhazian consultations on the question of settling the conflict in Abkhazia have begun in Moscow at the Foreign Ministry. Fighting is continuing in the region, and the reports coming from there are very contradictory. Thus, Abkhaz sources reported yesterday evening a victory in the Kodori gorge; Georgian sources refute this report. In our bulletin tonight, we have reportage from both sides of the trenches:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Medeya Akhalkatsi] Since nightfall, Abkhaz formations have been carrying out very intensive shelling against the Georgian mountain village of Zemo-Lada using heavy equipment, mortars, and large-caliber artillery. The Gudauta side has begun using banned phosphorous shells and Grad systems. Several helicopters are periodically bringing in additional personnel and military equipment from the direction of Sukhumi. Despite this, Georgian border troops and volunteer units are managing to contain the attack and to hold their positions. There are dozens of dead and wounded on both sides as a result of the constant battles. There are also casualties among the civilian population. Thousands of people are leaving their homes and swelling the already large list of displaced persons. Women and children are being evacuated first.

[Correspondent Ruslan Khashig] The situation in the Kodori gorge in Abkhazia is fully under the control of the republic's armed forces today. The government of Abkhazia is taking urgent measures these days to normalize life in the villages of Nizhnyaya and Verkhnyaya Lata. Local authorities are being restored, and foodstuffs are being delivered there. As a result of the operation, units of Georgian troops who had been dug in at Lata since last autumn have now been driven out. These units are currently blockaded in the mountain village of Azhara. [end recording]

Clashes Reported With Abkhazian Forces at Kodory

NC2903163994 Yerevan SNARK in English 0758 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tbilisi, March 29 (SNARK)—Tension still exists at the Kodory ravine (Abkhazian Svanetia). Using helicopters Abkhazian side goes on with additional man power and military hardware transfer. Press-Service of the Georgian Defense Department told SNARK hard clashes are going on at the Kvemo-Lata village. Using artillery launchers, military hardware and howitzers Abkhazian side continues Georgian villages shelling.

Georgian side manages to repel the enemy. The Georgian volunteer forces lost 5 soldiers, 4 soldiers were wounded. Abkhazian side lost 60 soldiers.

As for the Zugdidi region, the situation is stable. No serious clashes took place.

Georgian Residents Refuse To Leave

LD2903165094 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1445 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Abkhazian Svaneti, 29th [dateline as received]—The IBERIA news agency has learned that the majority of the Kodori Gorge Georgian population refuses to leave and are ready to protect their households with arms in hands.

Ministry Denies Svanetia Occupied

LD2903190394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 29 Mar 94

[By Georgian News Agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi March 29 TASS—The Georgian Defence Ministry's press service refuted today an Abkhazian report claiming Abkhazians have occupied the whole of Abkhazian Svanetia.

According to information of the press service, position fighting goes on in the Kodor Ravine near the Verkhnyaya Lata settlement. The enemy has put Georgian positions under artillery and mortar fire and uses heavy materiel.

Some ten combat choppers have brought more personnel and materiel to the area, but the sides' positions have not been considerably changed within the past 24 hours.

The volunteers who have five killed and four wounded are repulsing the enemy who has lost up to 60 militants, reports the press center.

Shevardnadze Gives Weekly Interview

LD2803134394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Weekly interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani—recorded]

[Text] [Nato Oniani] Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, last week the situation grew tense again in Abkhazia. Villages in Abkhazian Svaneti [northeastern Abkhazia] were attacked, and villages in Zugdidi Rayon were shelled. People have been wounded and killed. How would you assess the aggravation of the situation in the wake of ideas expressed in the UN secretary general's report? Do you think it is an attempt by Abkhaz leaders to make a

permanent border along the Enguri River? What will Russia's position be if the situation is aggravated? Will that big treaty with Russia be useful for us as a defense mechanism, considering that one of the paragraphs of the treaty prohibits training and sending combat units from the territory of one undersigned country to the other?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. The aggravation of the situation in Abkhazia: We have to take any possible measures, and certain measures have already been taken, to protect the villages. Definite stabilization of the situation was observed yesterday. Some civilians, including the wounded, were led out. In connection with the aggravation of the situation, I appealed to the Russian president, as you know. This was followed by the Russian Government's statement. I am not able say what influence this statement has had or will have on Abkhazs or what practical action the Russian Government will take, but we can infer that the Abkhazian side has planned a fairly large-scale operation. The very near future will show whether this can be stopped and a state of stability can be restored. At least, the Russian Government's statement says that the sides should immediately stop any activities leading to further aggravation and new confrontation in Abkhazia.

Now, what is my assessment of these events? We are facing an event that cannot be defined in words other than the following: Gudauta leaders are openly and publicly slighting both the United Nations and Russia because the appeal by Russia—the Russian Government's appeal—is not the first. If these appeals are sincere and if their mediation also has sincere aims, I mean aims for peace, this action carried out by those in Gudauta can be regarded as nothing but a slighting of both the United Nations and Russia. I believe this should considered at the UN Security Council and in Russia.

In this connection, I must say that I do not understand what mission the UN observers are carrying out in Abkhazia. Back in Sukhumi [just before the city fell to Abkhaz forces in autumn 1993], I was also puzzled. I still do not understand the aim of their stay here. Expenses are rather high. Indeed, we favored the idea of their intervening from the very beginning. But as a new stage of the confrontation is beginning, and we are already facing this, and the observers do not utter a word or even make a statement, this should make us feel concerned. The United Nations and its leadership should think about it. Let them at least blame us. Most of all I cannot understand their silence when preliminary agreements to cease fire and not to aggravate the situation are openly violated. I am still convinced that the dialogue should be renewed, because the failure of a peace mission meets the interest of neither the United Nations nor Russia. We have been positive about the necessity of the peaceful settlement since the very beginning of the Abkhazian conflict. We still confirm our readiness for the renewal of negotiations. However, as I have already said, we also have to be ready for different measures.

[Shevardnadze continues] Joint actions by the United Nations, Russia, and countries friendly to Georgia can grow into an extremely interesting precedent that can be used as a model or as an interesting example of the settlement of conflicts after the Soviet Union has disintegrated. This is a really unprecedented case when an international organization—the UN Security Council; one of its members—Russia; and four other countries, including members of the Security Council, are cooperating with the aim of settling a conflict. It is significant that this concerns one of the republics, one of the countries of the former Soviet Union. When all of this ends, it will be of the utmost significance for the future because the occurrence of similar conflicts cannot be ruled out in other countries.

As for the significance of the treaty with Russia, I have talked about it repeatedly. I would like to reconfirm that we will not be able to reach any sort of peace in Abkhazia unless we have Russia's backing in our striving to establish peace.

A few words about the commitments of the two sides. We, Georgia, are already implementing our commitments stipulated by the treaty and abide by every paragraph, every statement, every word. It is of great importance that we have signed an agreement on protecting state borders jointly. I believe that the Russian leadership aspires to the same thing, or something similar, in order to implement the whole package of agreements Mr. Yeltsin and I signed in Tbilisi and to implement it the way our peoples expect.

You have mentioned a renewed conflict, the aggravation of the situation in the Zugdidi area. My representatives are there, and as far as I know they have gotten in touch with Gudauta. There is an impression that the incidents that occurred there and which had serious effects have been provoked by the lack of control. I have been told that by their observations the incidents were initiated by the militants deployed in the area. This can be regarded as proof that the Gudauta leadership cannot control the situation in all regions. This is my answer.

[Oniani] Thank you. Last week, Georgia joined NATO's Partnership for Peace program, and a NATO delegation arrived in Tbilisi. You appealed to them for active support and the strengthening of peace. Do you think that NATO can be more active—I mean active involvement—as of a political organization, in order to prevent current events from becoming a source of new confrontation and new turmoil in Turkey, as a NATO country, or in Russia, which will apparently join the NATO initiative. These are the countries you have mentioned, as well as Iran.

[Shevardnadze] The principal subject I discussed with the NATO delegation pertained to principles of cooperation between NATO and CIS, and NATO and Russia. You might ask me why the cooperation between NATO and Georgia did not attract principal attention. It did indeed attract attention, but I want to reiterate that

NATO is not able to go far in its cooperation with us. A confrontation between NATO and Russia would lead the world to a situation in which relatively small countries would be harmed—and Georgia would be harmed first. Cooperation with NATO is undoubtedly promising in the long run. It seems very interesting. I, as well as the leaders of Russia and other countries, have given a positive assessment of the Partnership for Peace initiative, and it will be efficient if we are not led into a new wave of confrontation. I am still referring to relations between CIS and NATO and Russia and NATO. I believe that this very issue is central today. If these relations are normal, Georgia will gain a lot from this: As I once said, a commonwealth of commonwealths.

[Oniani] One of the most important events of the past week was the parliament's endorsement of the Cabinet of Ministers. So far, one candidate for vice premier has been approved and another has not been approved. Do you believe that the Cabinet you have presented will receive support?

[Shevardnadze] I will tell you the state of affairs. The Cabinet is working because the prime minister and one vice premier have been approved, although all this has taken a lot of time. I am going to meet the parliamentary majority today for additional consultations. I have had a contact, a dialogue, with the minority, and I would like to say that the dialogue was constructive. We must come to an agreement in the parliament as well as in the whole community that a policy of defiance will do no one good today. If the endorsement of the Cabinet drags out and grows complicated, the crisis will be aggravated because the country will be even more unmanageable. That is why I believe the endorsement of the Cabinet should be done quickly. This is in our common interests.

Quite a few issues about the ways to conduct our work are to be considered during the meetings with both the majority and the minority. I would like to appeal to the parliament to work more intensely—on Tuesday and probably on Wednesday and Thursday—and we would be able to finish this task in three or four days. We should approve those whom we consider necessary. The ministers should be sure that their mission continues. If someone is not trusted, this is an issue that should be handled promptly. I cannot rule out that I will use my right to repeatedly present a candidate that the parliament has not approved.

[Oniani] Here is the final question. Your visit to the United States, as well as the Ukrainian and Kazakh leaders' visits, has caused a complex reaction in certain circles in Russia. I would say it caused a remarkable irritation. I would not say that our opposition has reacted to this positively either. There emerged an idea that this visit was premature and could have affected certain processes negatively.

[Shevardnadze] No, it was by no means premature. It was a little overdue for various reasons.

Now, about our tasks in connection with this visit. I made explicit statements about it during my TV interview and addresses on the radio. The task of primary importance was to convey a message of the truth from a height like the Security Council, and I was able to stand on a high rostrum many times during the visit. I am referring to conversations with President Clinton and his associates, conversations in the Congress, and so on. I believe that a very useful and necessary job has been done.

The second task was to secure the continuation of Georgia's relations with the West by making it more concrete and permanent. I regard this as a concern for Georgia's future, and my visit served to reinforce the basis of the relations.

Apart from all of this, I had to go to the United States of America just to express gratitude for the assistance they rendered along with other Western countries. If we are still alive, we are alive because of assistance from the European Union. And you know the contribution France, England, and other countries render through the European Union. We have been getting constant assistance from the United States. This had to be said, and the gratitude of the Georgian people had to be expressed.

I have announced that President Clinton promised aid of up to $70 million. Amplification is being done now, new programs are being added and I was informed the day before yesterday that the sum had increased to $80-85 million.

[Shevardnadze] This will increase if we meet our commitments on securing stability in the country. Above all, these commitments are in our interests.

I saw immense prospects for American business, and foreign businesses including Russia and other countries in general, to flow into Georgia. Georgia will only gain from this.

Now a few words about that irritation you have mentioned. This visit was extremely interesting and useful in the context of relations between Russia and the United States and East-West relations in general. I do not think that Georgia and its leader are entitled to a distinguished mission as regards East-West relations, but every country including Georgia is capable of contributing to this.

I believe that preventing a new wave of confrontation between East and West, between Russia and the United States, should be the main concern of all countries, big as well as small. I believe that normal relations between these two countries are of special interest for small countries, including Georgia. Any kind of confrontation would harm our national interests.

Another thing: An independent state should not be worried if it acts in the interest of universal peace. Any kind of negative reaction to actions not contradicting the interest of universal peace can be considered as survival

of imperialist thinking. Everyone has to get used to the idea that yesterday is over, and we have to deal with new countries, independent countries, who plan visits themselves. Incidentally, I would like to tell you that when the date of President Yeltsin's visit coincided with my visit to France... [Oniani interrupts]

[Oniani] He postponed his visit...

[Shevardnadze] This has proved again that the president is well aware that old times and the old system have passed, and he has postponed his visit for 10 days so that our planned visit to Paris, France, will not fail. So nothing terrible is happening. There will be negative opinions, too, but in general the visit has played its role and accomplished its positive mission for Georgia and not only for Georgia.

[Oniani] Thank you. You have been listening to Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state.

Shevardnadze Informs Parliament on UN Resolution

LD2903211494 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1445 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The latest session of the Georgian parliament was held today, 29 March, and was addressed by the head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze. In his address, he commented on the Security Council's last resolution on the situation in Abkhazia, in which, the head of state stressed, "the stance of the Republic of Georgia" is confirmed. The head of state said that the resolution of the Security Council was a balanced document in which the legal status of Abkhazia was defined clearly within the framework of single, indivisible Georgia. It allows the hope that the question will be resolved by exclusively political means.

The head of the Georgian state especially singled out the formulation of the Security Council's resolution concerning the refugees who, according to Paragraph 3 of the resolution, must, without any limits, return to their homes in all rayons of Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze once again confirmed the readiness of the Georgian side to negotiate with the representatives of Abkhazia, despite the resumption of war by the separatists in the Kodori gorge.

The chairman of the republic's parliament announced with responsibility, before parliament and the state, that Georgia had not initiated the current escalation of tension in the Abkhazian Svaneti and the rayons adjacent to the Inguri River and that Georgia would not betray its course of "peaceful and political settlement of the conflict, about which the United Nations, the Security Council, and Russia must be informed".

Council Confirms Deputy Premiers' Nomination

LD2903160694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia chaired by Speaker Vakhtang Goguadze this morning resumed work.

Before the plenary session, Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of state, addressed the Supreme Council on the situation in Abkhazian Svaneti and, in particular, the Gali Gorge. After heated debates, parliamentarians started to discuss the agenda—completing the composition of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers. The discussion of this issue was also conducted in an atmosphere of heated debates. Eduard Shevardnadze addressed the Supreme Council on this issue. Discussions continued after the break, and after the roll-call vote Tamaz Nadareishvili, Avtandil Margiani, and Temur Basilia were confirmed deputy prime ministers of the Republic of Georgia.

Then, the Supreme Council discussed the nominations for heads of ministries. [indistinct passage omitted]

Supreme Council Confirms New Finance Minister

LD2903193894 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Today, the Georgian Supreme Council confirmed Davit Iakobidze as finance minister. The issue of merging the Ministries of Finance and Economy was raised at the session. Should the Supreme Council confirm it, the finance minister will be in charge of the united ministry.

As it is important and urgent to confirm the Cabinet of Ministers, the Supreme Council decided to convene on 30 March at 1200 [0800 GMT].

NIP Leader Explains Support for Zhirinovskiy

AU2603191994 Tbilisi ASAVAL DASAVALI in Georgian 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Zurab Gagnidze, leader of the National Ideology Party, by Nana Pitskhelauri; place and date not given: "I Have Been Called the Georgian Zhirinovskiy...."—all questions published in boldface]

[Excerpts] Zurab Gagnidze is the leader of the National Ideology Party [NIP] and a philosopher and political scientist. He was born and brought up in Tbilisi. He graduated from the philosophy faculty of Tbilisi State University. He continued his studies as a postgraduate. He is a candidate of philosophical sciences. He has worked as a teacher in higher educational establishments in Tbilisi. At the request of our readers, as we promised, we propose to you an interview with this person. We leave you to supply any commentary.

[Pitskhelauri]Your, as they say, alliance with Zhirinovskiy [leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia

(LDPR]) has alarmed the Georgian public. What we mean are the letters you sent to him.

[Gagnidze] I did indeed send these letters to Zhirinovskiy. We stated that our party is the true opposition in Georgia today (as opposed to those "pseudo-oppositionists" who are motivated by personal interests and ambitions) and I addressed the LDPR leader as one opposition [leader] to another. Moreover, the welfare of Georgia and Russia forms the basis for all this.

[Pitskhelauri]**Until now, you have been known by a large part of society as an active comrade-in-arms of Zviad Gamsakhurdia....**

[Gagnidze] I got involved in the national movement in 1989-90. I became an ally of Zviad Gamsakhurdia. At that time, I was getting my own articles published. Zviad told me in public: "You know how to write and you should use this to serve the national movement." The first articles that I had published were on political science; they concerned national will and national freedom.

Later on, there was disagreement between myself and the president about cadres selection. The National Ideology Association was formed on 12 September 1991 and was transformed into a party exactly one year later.

We are struggling for the restoration of national ideology. Our variant of state organization is national self-administration. This is quite separate from a presidential or parliamentary form of government and constitutional monarchy. National ideology is the only path toward the salvation of Georgia, and not only Georgia. After all, the idea of humanity forms the basis of our ideology.

Following the overthrow of Zviad's government, national ideas were being cursed along with the president, which was a moral blow for us. I said then, and repeat now, that the government should have been replaced without recourse to bloodshed and barbaric methods.

Second, we are, philosophically speaking, idealists. We have also developed the question of a national religion. Religion should express the natural qualities and potentialities of each nation and its soul. It will get rid of confrontation and unite all Georgians.

[Pitskhelauri]**If it is not a secret, what were your letters to Zhirinovskiy about?**

[Gagnidze] The first one expressed our attitude to the elections. We believe that Zhirinovskiy expressed the will of the Russian people and hence was victorious. Therefore, we decided to welcome this fact. I sent the first letter to Volf dze [son of Volf—Zhirinovskiy] on 12 December. It turned out that, after the Russian elections, opposition parties in Georgia condemned the results. Some were forgetting that Zhirinovskiy had been elected by his own people and that we have no right to interfere in their choice.

This led to my sending a personal letter of congratulations. The reason for the second letter concerned Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Our party believed that the ex-president could, under no circumstances, be buried in Groznyy. We decided to appeal to Zhirinovskiy, Butrus-Ghali, and Ilia II [Georgian patriarch], to intervene in some way, in accordance with the principles underlying the protection of human rights, so that the president could be buried in Mtatsminda [burial place in Tbilisi for eminent Georgians] or in the courtyard of the Kolkhuri tower.

The next letter concerned the treaty signed between Georgia and Russia. The Russian Duma refused to ratify it. We appealed to Russia's national forces not to oppose the signing of this treaty.

I don't know who should take the credit for this but this process was stopped.

Another point of contact with Zhirinovskiy was the political amnesty. We welcomed the fact that the political prisoners Khasbulatov and Rutskoy had been released from Lefortovo prison.

That was all. So, there is nothing to fear and condemn regarding what we did. [passage omitted]

[Pitskhelauri]**Zbigniew Brzezhinski also pointed out that chauvinism could grow into fascism and this was easier to envisage following Zhirinovskiy's appearance on the political arena.**

[Gagnidze] I believe that it is only Zhirinovskiy who expresses the will of the Russian nation today. He is a fairly complex phenomenon. It has become a common event to curse and hurl all kinds of slander at a new leader as soon as he appears on the political scene. We also have experienced such facts.

Zhirinovskiy stated in his first speech during the election campaign that, if he alone was criticizing the current authorities, it was because they were interfering in the administration of other republics, specifically Georgia.

Well, isn't Yeltsin aiming to create a powerful state? Like Volf dze and unlike Yeltsin, we also support democracy that is not limited, but on a large scale and believe that Yeltsin's heyday is over and Zhirinovskiy's is imminent.

I forgot to mention that we stated in the concluding part of the letter to Zhirinovskiy: "Your victory in the elections will have a beneficial influence on strengthening Georgia's national independence and protecting its territorial integrity."

We should make use of this person.

[Pitskhelauri] You were recently christened on television as the Georgian Zhirinovskiy.

[Gagnidze] That's right. If I'm not mistaken, it was on "Ibervizia" that I was called the Georgian Zhirinovskiy. They probably saw that the similarity between us lay in

what he wants for Russia and what I want for Georgia, that is to say, territorial integrity.

The difference between us lies in the fact that Zhirinovskiy is a Jew by nationality whereas "there is not a drop of my blood that is not Georgian."

I would also like to point out that we Georgians have the habit of comparing anyone dynamic who appears on the scene with foreigners. It would be my wish not to be known as the Georgian Zhirinovskiy, but for Zhirinovskiy to be called the Georgian [as published] Gagnidze. [passage omitted]

[Pitskhelauri] In conclusion, let us turn to the current problems facing Georgia. How do you assess parliament's ratification of the document on Georgia joining the CIS?

[Gagnidze] Frankly speaking, I have a strong antipathy toward the Georgian parliament. There is no doubt that it has to be dissolved. During one year, this parliament has not been able to issue a single law. To put it crudely, it reminds me of a cow that is well looked after, but cannot produce any milk. It is no better than the former parliament; if anything, it is worse.

I agree with Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Giorgi Shevardnadze when he said that there should first be order not among the people but in parliament. As regards the CIS, this is an ephemeral association that contains aspects of security. I believe that the association should be based on free will. The question of ratification should be put to a referendum and the Georgian people should decide whether Georgia joins the CIS or not; it should not be decided by parliament, which does not have the moral right or the power to decide the country's fate.

The question of dissolving parliament and holding new elections in which we would like to take part should be put on the agenda in the near future.

[Pitskhelauri]**What would be the most desirable outcome of the elections for you?**

[Gagnidze] I have already told you—national self-administration.

First Round of South Ossetia Elections Ends

LD2903151394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1319 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Preliminary reports show that 70

of members of the new parliament were elected in the Saturday elections in South Ossetia, the self-proclaimed republic within Georgia. This was reported to INTERFAX on Tuesday by the South Ossetian leader Ludvig Chibirov who pointed to the high turnout. A total of 80

of registered voters cast their ballots.

The second round of voting is scheduled for April 10. Chibirov will also run the second time because there are five more candidates in his electoral district.

Meanwhile, an aide of the leader of Georgia, that does not recognize the republic, has described the elections as illegal. In an interview Vazha Khachapuridze said they were aimed at the separation of South Ossetia from Georgia. He said the step contradicts the trilateral Dagomys agreements and could aggravate the situation. "International experts will pass their verdict on the lawfulness of the elections", the aide said.

Renamed Caucasus Border District Moves HQ

PM2903131394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Pavshentsev report: "Everything Changes. Even a Name"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The Transcaucasus Border District has changed its name. It is now called the Caucasus Special Border District. The change of name reflects the need to pursue a unified border policy in the Caucasus as a whole. The district's troop directorate has been relocated from Tbilisi to Stavropol.

"The directorate of the 'Gruziya' troop group of Russian border troops will function in Tbilisi," Colonel V. Chistousov, chief of the troop group, said. "None of the units has left the territory of Georgia, and each of them is continuing to guard the border in the same structure. I hope that attacks on border subunits, the taking of motor vehicles, and hostage taking are a thing of the past and that the attitude toward those who defend Georgia's interests on the border will change."

During last year alone approximately 100 intruders were detained by Russian border guards on the Georgian-Turkish border. But there are no grounds for complacency. Georgian Security Minister I. Georgadze declared in an interview with the newspaper SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA that all the preconditions exist for the republic to be able to become a major transshipment point for the transit of drugs to Europe and America from Asian countries.

Tasks of guarding the border are resolved jointly with the Georgian Border Troops Department. An agreement has been signed on the procedure for manning the Russian Federation border troops and for the performance of military service on a voluntary basis by citizens of Georgia on the republic's territory. It is planned to draft up to 600 people in the fall.

In the opinion of the chief of the "Gruziya" troop group, the agreement will create a favorable basis for forming Georgia's own border troops.

Estonia

Government Endorses Agreements With Russia

LD3003032094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0150 GMT 30 Mar 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Riga, 30 Mar—The Latvian Government has endorsed the package of agreements with Russia initialled by the delegations of both countries at talks in Moscow on 15 March. The cabinet of ministers considers the quick signing and ratification in the Saeima of these documents as "the only real guarantee of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Latvian territory before 31 August this year," says the government statement adopted late evening on 29 March. The document stresses that the fixed term of the final troops pullout will enhance the possibility of international monitoring of this process. It also says that many countries have supported the initialled agreements and "have described them as a success of Latvian diplomacy."

Let us recall that of the four documents that form this package, the national forces have mostly criticized two: on temporarily maintaining the radio intercepting station in Skrunde and on the social protection of military pensioners. The government describes the treaty on the radar as a compromise and concedes that in the absence of an agreement the station would have been working uncontrollably for an indefinite period. The cabinet members believe this document will enable Latvia's cooperation with Western collective security systems and show Latvia's readiness to reach a compromise in the interests of the international community. As for military pensioners, the statement says their status will be defined by Latvian laws, "and the Russian side's claims that they should be granted citizenship have been turned down."

Most Weapons Said Removed From Russian Division

WS2903123894 Tallinn BNS in English 0850 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 29, BNS—Practically all offensive weapons have been removed from the Tallinn-based Russian 144th motorized rifle division, a high-ranking official from the Estonian Defense Ministry told BNS on condition of anonymity.

The Defense Ministry has information that a troop train with the last remaining armored equipment of the 144th division leaves Estonia at the beginning of April. The number of means of transport and men in the division is not known.

The Russian division has to date turned over to Estonia the practice range at Aegviidu and the car repair shop in Tallinn. The facilities in Klooga, Ke[illegible]a and Tallinn are due to be handed over to the Defense Ministry later this spring.

Pakri Peninsula Reactor Dismantling Plans Noted

LD2903153294 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Juri Tikk, the government's special representative in Paldiski, said today that the dismantling of the nuclear reactors at Paldiski and the accompanying introduction of a special regime is due to begin in the second half of April. He added that the special regime will be introduced for the whole of Pakri Peninsula. First there will be the familiar system of permits, but when the reactor's lid is lifted, so to speak, the peninsula will be closed completely. The special regime will be abolished after the nuclear fuel has been removed—by the end of June or beginning of July.

The Russian side will not allow anyone close [words indistinct] because several devices on site are alleged to be secret, and thus will be assuming total responsibility. Later, during the second stage of the removal process, the Russian military are willing to allow both Estonian and international observers to witness the dismantling process. [passage omitted]

Russian Military Registration Planned Everywhere

WS3003104594 Tallinn ETA in English 1901 GMT 29 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] As in the northwestern town of Paldiski, a former location of a Russian nuclear submarine training base, where the registration of inhabitants was carried out last week, registration of population should be carried out in all spots where Russian military are or were located, Estonian Minister of Population Peeter Olesk told a press conference on Tuesday [29 March].

He named such former Russian military bases as Loksa, Keila-Joa, Klooga and Tapa as being the first where similar activities should be conducted.

Olesk said that besides the need to guarantee security and order in Paldiski during the dismantling work of the nuclear reactors of the training base, the registry was a good experience for the authorities to test the new methods of registering. Olesk added that after the census of 1989 the number and structure of population in Estonia has changed greatly, with no new census being in view before 2000.

According to the preliminary results of registering of inhabitants in Paldiski, over six thousand people live there, Olesk told ETA on Monday. In the course of registration that lasted from March 22 to 25, 3,684 registration questionnaires were fulfilled. In addition, a list of 892 Russian military and their families from the

submarine training centre and 69 military from Tallinn fleet headquarters is in the possession of Estonian Government. Children up to 16 years were inscribed in the questionnaires of their parents and their exact amount, estimated at about one thousand, will be clear next week. Another thousand people did not appear at the registration mainly for being on a business trip.

Olesk added that people that did not register themselves will have difficulties in moving in the town when the dismantling work of the nuclear reactor at the former military base will start and people that do not have a registering inscription in their documents or do not possess a special permission to be in the town, will be detained until their identification is determined.

Up to now the exact number and composition of population in Paldiski, largely inhabited by non-Estonian population and Russian military, was not known, for the former town authorities, subject to Russian military authorities and dissolved by a law adopted by Estonian Riigikogu [parliament] on March 9, refused to hand over data on the subject.

Government's special representative in Paldiski Juri Tikk told a press conference, on Tuesday, that the dismantling work of the nuclear reactor, which will bring about a special order to be enforced in the town, will start in the second decade of April and last till the nuclear fuel is deported from Estonia at the end of June or beginning of July.

Tikk said that at the first stage of dismantling, the Russian side will not allow anybody but "his own men" to observe the process, for several allegedly secret mechanisms are situated at the object. Later Estonian and international observers are allowed to observe the liquidation process.

Tikk added that the possibility of a "black scenario", which would mean a radioactive contamination of the environment, is about zero but should not be excluded. In an emergency situation Russian side intends to bring 200 chemical specialists from Kaliningrad in an hour. In case there is a need to evacuate local population, the Estonian side will pay the costs, he added.

Russian Baltics Customs Restrictions Viewed

WS3003104694 Tallinn ETA in English 0715 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 61/94]

[Text] The Russian Committee of Customs has introduced new higher customs tariffs on trade with the Baltic states. The new tariffs are twice as high as those on other states and are likely to result in a sharp decrease of the eastern trade of the Baltic states.

Prime Minister Mart Laar was of the opinion that Russia attempted to exert pressure on the Baltic states, but harmed itself to an equal degree. This decision proves the correctness of the decision of the Estonian Government to reorient its economy towards the West. "Estonia is not dependent on Russia and we have nothing to fear," he said.

Chairman of the Riigikogu [parliament] economic commission Ivar Raig described the move as a discrimination against the Baltic states. It may result in a growing pressure on the kroon, an increased inflation and unemployment, he warned, recommending to appeal to the Western powers to link the most favoured status in trade with the abolition of discriminatory customs tariffs towards the Baltic states.

Academician Endel Lippmaa was also convinced that "it is a clearly repressive measure which also violates the Estonian-Russian agreement." Lippmaa was concerned with the influence on Latvia and Lithuania and recommended to impose similar high tariffs on the Russian transit trade in order to have something to bargain with later.

Foreign Ministry advisor Urve Ndu commented the Russian move as a violation of the European trading traditions, adding that restrictions may be introduced only because of threat to public health or environment, according to the GATT requirements.

Minister of Agriculture Jaan Leetsar was the most pessimistic. The introduction of the new tariffs may have the same effect on the export of agricultural products as the monetary reform of 1992—impossibility of export resulting in a stockpiling of products. This further caused a chain of indebtedness between the producers and food processing firms. The customs tariffs on potatoes reach 50 percent, on meat, milk and butter to 30 percent, which make export to Russia impossible. There are two alternatives—to find a new market or to further reduce the livestock, Leetsar said. But he added that the ministry had foreseen the Russian move and had also prepared corresponding recommendations for the protection of the Estonian market.

Estonian Ambassador to Russia Juri Kahn pointed out that the move may have been caused by Russia's domestic factors. "The shops are filled with goods but only 5-15 percent of the population can afford them, since the prices are twice as high as in Finland," the Ambassador said. He also linked the move with the success of the agrarian party at the recent elections.

Ministry Issues Policy Statement on Korean 'Crisis'

WS2903191194 Tallinn ETA in English 1646 GMT 29 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 29—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia informed ETA, on

Tuesday [29 March], of its position regarding the continuing refusal of North Korea to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts adequately to inspect its nuclear sites.

The Ministry, in its statement, supports all peaceful initiatives to solve the problems on the Korean peninsula and considers the solution of the North Korean nuclear inspection question to be an important step toward the unification of the Korean people.

The Ministry supports the international demand as stated in United Nations Security Council Resolution 825 (1993) according to which North Korea must allow international experts access to all its nuclear sites.

The Ministry shares the concerns expressed in the IAEA resolution of March 21, 1994 about North Korean violations on March 13 and 14 of the agreement which had been reached on February 15, 1994.

The Ministry finds North Korea's behavior in connection with the inspection of its nuclear sites to be nonconstructive and serving to escalate tensions.

The Ministry supports the resolution of the resulting crisis via negotiations, including if necessary other nations in that region into this process.

Official Discusses Cooperation With France

WS2903123794 Tallinn BNS in English 0850 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 29, BNS—Estonia and France may soon conclude an agreement on cooperation in defense, was the outcome of a meeting yesterday between Estonian Defense Ministry Chancellor Hannes Walter and officials from the French Defense Ministry east European department and the French Foreign Ministry.

Walter said at the meeting that, in his view, there are no blocks in the way of extending military cooperation between Estonia and France. The bilateral agreement on defense cooperation is ready to be signed, the Defense Ministry informs.

The members of the French delegation said at the meeting that after signing the defense cooperation agreement the two countries might discuss cooperation plans for next year and French-speaking Estonian officers' opportunities for studying at French military academies.

The French delegation also met with Col. Ants Laaneots, Estonian Defense Forces chief of staff, and head of naval department Capt. Roland Laid, and visited the National Defense Academy.

Danish Minister on Cooperation With Baltics

LD2903144194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Danish Defense Minister Hans Haekkerup is currently on a two-day visit to Estonia. Priit Ennet attended a news conference he gave at the airport.

[Ennet] Danish Defense Minister Hans Haekkerup intends to sign an Estonian-Danish defense cooperation agreement tomorrow. Denmark has already concluded similar agreements with Latvia and Lithuania. They envisage the holding of consultations in order to resolve defense and security issues and dialogue on strategic planning. Hans Haekkerup said on arrival at Tallinn airport that state defense greements with all Baltic states on state defense cooperation are basically very similar.

[Begin Haekkerup recording, in English fading to Estonian translation] It is important to us that the Baltic states should not be set to trail behind other central and eastern European countries. We wish to ensure that the Baltic states are part of Europe and have access to our security structures, with the help of bilateral and multipartite cooperation. We are much interested in cooperation with the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. The Nordic countries, in conjunction with other countries, have been aiming to draft a program of assistance to the Baltic battalion. We aim to help to design the battalion's structure and cooperate in training. I hope we will be able to supply some of the equipment. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Premier Urges Dismissal of State Radio Director

WS2903191294 Tallinn ETA in English 1612 GMT 29 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 29—Estonia's government thinks Herkki Haldre, the director general of state-owned Estonian Radio should be dismissed, Prime Minister Mart Laar told a news conference on Tuesday [29 March].

The government supports the bill presented by the parliament's culture commission on dismissing the director general of the Estonian Radio, said Laar.

The chairman of the parliamentary commission presented the bill to Riigikogu [parliament] last Thursday after state auditors found "violations of finance discipline" in the radio.

Preparations for Hand Grenades Production Begin

WS2803195694 Tallinn BNS in English 1559 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 28, BNS—Estonia is making preparations to start the production of hand grenades, Defense Ministry Deputy Chancellor Tarmo Molder told BNS.

Molder said a state-owned enterprise, a company with state participation and a private firm are involved in the project.

As next step, Estonia hopes to launch production of shells.

Manufacture of domestic cartridges was put off because of the high cost price.

Lithuania is at present the only Baltic nation to produce its own ammunition—cartridges and hand grenades. The country plans soon to begin making 60 mm and 80 mm cannon and shells for them. The Latvian Defense Ministry has invited tenders for the manufacture of cartridges.

Major Paper To Cease Publication 29 Mar

WS2803200994 Tallinn ETA in English 1857 GMT 28 Mar 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, March 28—Board of RAS Rahva Haal that publishes the second-biggest Estonian daily RAHVA HAAL decided, on Monday [28 March], to end the labour contract with the editor-in-chief of the daily TOOMAS LEITO and stop publishing the daily starting Tuesday.

Managing editor of the paper Tiit Lehiste told ETA that as soon as publishing the daily will be stopped, AS RH, a joint-stock company, founded by the staff of the paper last year to participate at the privatization of the paper, was ready to start issuing a new Estonian daily with the same contents.

Turmoil over the daily started already in May last year when Estonian Privatization Agency decided to privatize the state-owned newspaper. Head of the Privatization Agency Liia Hanni has admitted later that in the course of the privatization, the result of which is that two applicants to the daily gave the matter to the court, the Agency acted in disagreement with existing laws. At present the matter has reached the Supreme Court and the privatization of the daily has been stopped.

In October last year the board of the daily was changed with majority given to representatives of the government coalition. On March 18 the board adopted a decision to change the statutes of the company, abolishing the institution of editor-in-chief and create a new institution of publisher-in-chief. On Monday majority of the staff of the paper, in protest to the decision, resigned and decided to join RH. On Tuesday, the editor-in-chief was sacked, a decision which was later, in the course of week-long talks between the board of RAS Rahva Haal, AS RH and Ministry of Culture and Education, abolished. Editor-in-chief of Rahva Haal Toomas Leito told ETA that the decisions of the board of RAS Rahva Haal had been of "purely political" nature.

The decisions of the board were followed by a series of statements by Journalists and Newspapers Unions and well-known public figures, denouncing the decisions of the board, saying they aimed at creating censorship in Estonia.

RAHVA HAAL is the biggest daily distributed all over Estonia that belongs to the state. Its circulation is 47.6 thousand at week-days and 50 thousand at Saturdays.

On Monday, East and Central-European Newspaper Publishers Forum protested against the Estonian government's "attempts to put ideological pressure on the newspaper". In its letter to Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar the Forum demands quickening of privatization of newspapers in Estonia in the way the government has promised to do it. "During privatization debates there should be no ideological control over RAHVA HAAL or any other newspaper", the participants of the Forum Bucharest meeting stress in their statement.

The Forum calls stopping privatization of press in Estonia as "causing extreme concern", recalling the government's promise to privatize also the state news agency ETA and a state radio channel, which have also come to a deadlock. "It is already the third time during the last half year that international press organisations have had to protest against the media policy of Estonian government," editor-in-chief of the BALTIC INDEPENDENT weekly and deputy chairman of the board of the Estonian Newspapers Union Tarmu Tammerk told ETA, recalling government's attempts to establish an 18 per cent turnover tax to all press publications in Estonia and government's first attempt to privatize RAHVA HAAL.

Latvia

Prime Minister Interviewed on Russian Withdrawal

LD2903171094 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Studio interview with Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs by correspondent Zaiga Grinberga in Riga; for the "Pusdiena" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Grinberga] [passage omitted] I think that, nevertheless, today the agreements initialled between Latvia and Russia on the withdrawal of the Russian Army must also be touched upon because you will examine these agreements at today's Cabinet of Ministers meeting. The Cabinet of Ministers must then confirm them.

I think there still are, however, some ambiguities. Other countries—some of them that have even congratulated Latvia on such an outcome to the talks and are satisfied—at the same time, are they satisfied? [passage omitted]

Mr. Birkavs, are these other countries, after all, aware of how many troops will remain here and of what this process will be like?

[Birkavs] Mrs. Grinberga, you immediately grab the bull by the horns very strongly. [passage omitted] I would very much like everyone to feel secure and stable about the future during this heated time. Precisely during the present day, however, our state's boat or our state's ship is being rocked quite heavily in connection with the agreement between Russia and Latvia. Moreover, it is being rocked in such a way that all the values that we possess and that we have achieved and for which we are striving may collapse.

We, of course, are very thoroughly evaluating each sentence in the agreement. The agreement is the result of two years of difficult talks, in which a compromise in one place gave an opportunity to move forward at another place. The heart was heavy before signing this agreement, but the agreement is a guarantee. It is a guarantee for our future: that the troops will definitely leave, that Skrunda will definitely be eliminated, and that military pensioners will definitely be controlled in our state. This is because one of the component parts of the agreement are the lists of pensioners, of the militarists; 22,000—that is a big number—but we will know them all. At the present moment, we do not even know them all.

We will know exactly who those 599 military persons will be who are to be located at the Skrunda facility. When we know all those persons—in the near future we are forming an immigration policy—then we will find much more easily the superfluous ones. We will much more easily isolate them and much more easily extradite them from the state. Therefore, we must very thoroughly weigh in, but the movement toward signing the agreement is absolutely necessary. I think that the attitude of the world toward signing of the agreement is comparatively unequivocal in principle; it is positive, because the world sees that we are using a civilized method. [passage omitted]

[Grinberga] Is it, after all, really ethical to lay down in such detail those social guarantees for the military people who will be considered pensioners and will be considered retired. These minute concerns that have been laid down in one of the agreements, why is it necessary to do so in that much detail, to do so very thoroughly?

[Birkavs] You see, in one of the agreements all the minute concerns have been laid down that are being implemented until 31 August. After 31 August, both these minute and major concerns will end for us because the troops, and their family members, and the military persons who retired after this agreement was concluded are being guaranteed definite rights until they leave. That is those who retired after 28 January 1992; in fact, it is from the moment when Yeltsin recognized the former USSR troops as their troops. Until that moment that all the complex of military persons leaves, they are being guaranteed definite rights—comparatively minute, yes, but so it is. This is until the agreement's ... [pauses] until the troops leave.

Another agreement relates to the stay in Latvia of military persons, of retired military persons. Of course, if we would be able to get rid of these retired military persons easily without an agreement—and they would leave with the troops—this would be an ideal version. I would be the most glad of all. This is not possible, however; therefore, it is laid down in the agreement that they cannot and never will obtain Latvian citizenship under any conditions and that they must subjugate themselves to the laws of Latvia.

They have those minute concerns for themselves, as you said, to be allowed medical services, to visit the dentist, on general grounds. So that their apartments will be warm—although the apartments of Latvians, as they usually are, are cold—this has been laid down in the agreement. So, neither more nor less is given to them than to others, but these were the demands by the Russian side. This is what they insisted on, as a result of which we have arrived at the agreement that will rid us of them after all.

[Grinberga] So, would you also please tell us with what means will the Skrunda radar station be dismantled—those buildings—with what money?

[Birkavs] I think that—although hatred and anger against Skrunda is so great that the radar station might collapse by that alone—nevertheless, the U.S. Senate will decide on 15 April on allocating 10 million dollars in order to make use of technical means for dismantling the Skrunda radar station. Dismantling can begin, dismantling of the new radar station can begin at the moment the agreement is signed. I have already spoken with people about whether they would be ready to drive there with tractors, although a tractor will not suffice. Actually, the Skrunda radar station, the new one, must be levelled to the ground. Also, the foundations must be blown up. No kind of a temptation must remain there for Russia. If foundations were to remain, then building the top—that big one—could be done very quickly. Therefore, at that moment when there will be nothing—neither the foundations nor the top—we will be fully convinced that Russia will not make any kind of investments for building a new radar station. They will, evidently, invest that in Belarus, at Baranovichi. [passage omitted]

Riga To Protest Russian Servicemen's Conduct

WS3003095094 Tallinn BNS in English 1756 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 29, BNS—Latvia is sending Russia a note of protest in view of a recent incident between Russian military persons and Latvian Homeguards, during which a series of illegalities were detected in the conduct of Russian servicemen.

The incident occured March 16 in the Riga district Stopini firing ground situated outside the territory of a nearby Russian military base.

The Russian servicemen had staged field excercise on the firing ground without a permit from the local authority, neither had they movement permits from the bureau monitoring the troop withdrawal. The incident was settled peacefully and the detained servicemen returned to their unit.

According to the note, Latvia hopes that similar incidents, which may have serious consequences, will be averted in the future.

Latvian Foreign Ministry's Aivars Vovers invited Russian diplomat Valeri Nesterushkin Tuesday [29 March] to receive the note.

Parliament Faction Contemplates Resignation

WS3003094894 Tallinn BNS in English 1756 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 29, BNS—If the Saeima (parliament) ratifies the Latvian-Russian troop withdrawal accord, the National Independence Movement [LNNK] might consider resignation, faction member Aristids Lembergs told reporters Tuesday [29 March].

Faction head Alexander Kirsteins, however, questioned the option as legally and technically impossible. The parliament may be dissolved exclusively by the president, according to the country's Constitution, said the faction's deputy head Andrejs Krastins.

If one of the factions withdrew from the parliament, the president may be forced to consider the parliament's dissolution, said Krastins.

LNNK has not discussed the resignation issue with other factions in the parliament's National Bloc yet but Lembergs predicted they could approve of the motion.

The National Bloc dislikes the Latvian-Russian agreement for concession to Russia's demands of the Skrunda radar operation and the social guarantees to war pensioners in return for Aug. 31 as the withdrawal deadline.

The National Bloc includes parliament factions of LNNK, Homeland and Freedom, Christian Democrats Union. They have been pressuring President Guntis Ulmanis and the parliament not to sign and ratify the agreement since it was initialed on March 15.

'Crowd of 200' Protests Russian Troop Agreement

WS2903185294 Tallinn BNS in English 1646 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Riga, Mar 29, BNS—A crowd of 200 gathered in front of the Cabinet building in Riga Tuesday [29 March] to protest the Latvian-Russian tentative agreement on troop withdrawal.

The meeting was organized by the Tevzeme (Fatherland) national association which dislikes the initialed agreement because it stipulates temporary functioning of a Russian-operated radar facility and guarantees rights of Russian war pensioners in the Baltic country.

The picket held slogans "The Oppressors Should Not Stay on the Land of the Oppressed," "Latvia No Resort for Russian Officers," chanting "Down with Government that Sells the Latvian Nation" and "Occupants—Get Out."

The demonstrators demanded Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs or Special Tasks Minister Edvins Inkens to come out and speak on their record in front of the rally. But the officials did not appear.

Latvian National Independence Movement leader Aristids Lembergs was present in the meeting. Lembergs said that the agreements have not been ratified in the Saeima (parliament) yet and they bear no signature of the Latvian president. Consequently, the picket may help to form the opinion of deputies, he added.

The Cabinet is discussing the withdrawal agreement today.

Lithuania

Premier Signs Cooperation Agreements in Slovenia

WS2903185194 Tallinn BNS in English 1646 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 29, BNS—A Lithuanian-Slovenian agreement on economic cooperation was signed in Ljubljana Tuesday [29 March] by Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and his Slovenian counterpart Janez Drnovsek.

During their meeting, the two premiers discussed several draft agreements brought to Slovenia by the Lithuanian delegation, Lithuanian radio said.

On Tuesday, Slezevicius also met with Slovenian Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle. Lithuanian Industry and Trade Minister Kazimieras Klimasauskas met with Slovenian Economy Minister Davorin Kracun.

The head of the Lithuanian central bank, Kazimieras Ratkevicius, spent the day talking with Slovenian bankers about ways of improving settlements between the two countries.

Accord on Fishing development With EC Ratified

LD2903170594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Seimas ratified an agreement today between the Republic of Lithuania and the European Economic Community on the development of fishing.

This agreement was signed in Brussels on 17 December 1993. The sides agreed to cooperate closer in the preservation and rational use of the stock of fish in the areas under the jurisdiction of both sides and the neighboring areas. The EEC promises to contribute to the improvement of the knowledge of the Lithuanian fishing industry workers and allocate financial assistance for their training. The agreement envisages that the sides will encourage the establishment of joint fishing industry enterprises.

Parliament Ratifies Several Agreements

LD2903140694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] There are 13 items on the agenda of today's Seimas plenary session. Here is Guoda Salciute with her report.

[Salciute] [Passage omitted] Several international agreements have been ratified at the morning session: mutual agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the EEC on fishing, which was signed in Brussels on 17 December of last year, and agreements with Denmark, Finland and Sweden on defense issues. [passage omitted]

Consulate Opens in Kaliningrad Region

WS2903190694 Tallinn BNS in English 1646 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 29, BNS—A Lithuanian consul and a vice consul on Tuesday [29 March] began work in the town of Kaliningrad, which is the administrative center of the Kaliningrad region.

The Lithuanian consulate in Kaliningrad is headed by Sigitas Sileris, who until now worked as director of the Klaipeda seaport in Lithuania.

Raimondas Sivys, Lithuanian vice consul in Kaliningrad, has been replaced by Algirdas Kasperunas, who previously headed the press center of the Lithuanian parliament.

Lithuanian Claims to Kaliningrad Oblast Viewed

PM3003102994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Stroganov: "What Kind of City Karaljaucius Is; How Lithuania Understands Kaliningrad Oblast's Status"]

[Text] Vilnius—A statement by the philosopher Romualdas Ozolas, the influential Lithuanian politician and Sejm member, about Kaliningrad forces us to return to the subject of Lithuania's mutual relations with that region. R. Ozolas' diplomatic and legal discovery is that the agreement on the status of Kaliningrad Oblast was reached immediately after the war by the participants in the Potsdam conference, one of which has "died." The philosopher has in mind the USSR. Thus, he concludes, the CSCE still has to decide whether to allow the USSR's heir, Russia, to continue to control this oblast.

This politician's statement could be dismissed and ignored: What does it matter what someone says in the heat of polemics. But two considerations prevent this. First, it would be interesting to know how the independent states which have appeared on the map of the former USSR would react if Russia were to allow itself to address to them a small proportion of such statements connected with the disputed nature of particular territories. I do not mention the fact that Russia's immediate neighbors often choose brief segments of history which suit them and lustfully state their right to a particular region, playing conjuring tricks with all kinds of international documents.

Second, Lithuania's official figures in contrast to R. Ozolas (actually, let us not forget he is a member of parliament) do not allow themselves such speeches and nonetheless the subject of Kaliningrad Oblast is increasingly present in their statements "against" Russia. Before, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said that the numerical strength of the servicemen in the oblast is far smaller than some mass media claim. But in his January letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher he was already voicing great concern at the Russian Army concentration in Kaliningrad Oblast and drew attention to the need to demilitarize the region.

It is not hard to notice that the change in his position is in the mainstream of the opinions of opposition forces and right-wing movements. Back when he was chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, Vytautas Landsbergis frequently expressed himself in the same spirit on the subject of Kaliningrad Oblast. Members of right-wing movements, even if they are not speaking directly of the need to transfer this region to Lithuania, are hinting it. And on this plane R. Ozolas' arguments are no great surprise.

The right-wing newspaper LETUVOS AYDAS states that Karaljaucius (that is what it calls Kaliningrad) should be demilitarized and its fate should be decided by an agreement between Russia, Lithuania, and Germany. "At Potsdam Lesser Lithuania was handed over to the control of the USSR proceeding from extensive scientific material which argued that this territory is ancient Lithuanian land," the newspaper asserts. "The Kremlin leaders initially planned to hand it over to Lithuania but later had second thoughts and by an edict of 7 April 1946 Lesser Lithuania was joined to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and called Kaliningrad Oblast."

This oversimplified assessment of a very complex historical moment issued in many thousands of copies can indeed give rise to quite specific feelings among some Lithuanian citizens. What about the fact that at that time Koenigsberg had been German for 700 years? That the Prussian tribe subjugated by the Teutons in the 13th century was a Baltic tribe—related to the Lithuanians

but not Lithuanian? In my view the numerous indications that elements of Lithuanian culture are present in the region are also unproductive. So what? What if the Slavs were to search for traces of their own culture in other regions of the former USSR and not on Russian territory?

Government Approves EBRD Plan on Enterprises

LD2903194694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Government has approved a proposal by the Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Europe [as heard—EBRD] to carry out in Lithuania a program aimed at improving the financial and economic state of Lithuania's industrial enterprises. The program provides for the appropriation of up to 2 million dollars to five state companies to make them competitive.

The Lithuanian Economics Ministry says the program has come too late and should have been put into effect about a year and a half ago. The main reason for this is the lack of medium-sized and still opportune enterprises, because the Reconstruction Bank does not want to finance very large companies.

Spring Draft Plan To Enroll 3,500 Announced

WS2903083594 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 23 Mar 94 No. 56 p 5

[Report attributed to BNS: "Recruits Are Being Called Up"]

[Text] The government has announced a draft to the active national defense service. Under the 18 March resolution, up to 3,500 young men born in 1975, who have already turned 19, as well as other senior citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, who must perform their active national defense service, will be conscripted in April and May. At the same time, servicemen who have served their full term will be transferred to the reserve.

Conscripts will be trained and armed in accordance with the rules set by the National Defense Ministry [KAM] and the Interior Ministry, and will perform their service in Interior Ministry units or other places designated by the KAM. The resolution reads that the KAM and the Health Ministry must ensure that medical commissions in cities and regions carry out thorough examinations. The Interior Ministry is authorized to assist territorial headquarters of the KAM Volunteer National Defense Service in regions and districts in executing the draft to the active national defense service.

New Director for National Minorities Department

LD2903214194 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Alfonsas Sveinys has been appointed general director of the Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities attached to the Lithuanian Government.

The Department of Regional Problems and National Minorities has been formed after the reorganization of the Department of Nationalities and of the State Commission for Regional Problems. Sveinys had been deputy director of the Department of nationalities.

LDDP Welcomes Pro-Communist Socialist Party

WS2903140194 Tallinn BNS in English 1218 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Vilnius, Mar 29, BNS—The Socialist Party of Lithuania, "a resolute political party of the working people," was founded in Vilnius Saturday [27 March] by a unanimous vote of 68 delegates.

Albinas Visockas, chairman of the new party, said its creation is "an expression of people's despair." In his words, the Socialist Party is "inseparable from the scientific theory of Karl Marx."

The socialists condemn anti-communism as "a means to destroy ideological opponents politically and morally. In our view, to compare communism with brutal fascism is nothing but criminal populism and incitement of low instincts of a crowd."

The congress adopted a resolution, under the headline "Anti-communism-a source of confusion and global instability," which will reportedly be sent to the United Nations and the Pope.

According to the resolution, time has come to evaluate "objectively and honestly" the doctrine of communism on an international level. The socialists regret that the word "communist" has become a synonym of "evildoer and criminal," and anti-communism has turned into a state policy in Lithuania.

In another resolution, the socialists said the ban imposed on activities of the communist party in Lithuania was an "antidemocratic act" and a "general political amnesty" should be declared.

The communist party was outlawed in Lithuania after a failed Soviet coup attempt in January 1991.

Visockas, a Vilnius bakery worker, intends to run for a vacant seat in the parliament, which appeared after Algirdas Brazauskas, former leader of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP], was elected as president.

Representatives of the LDDP, the reorganized Lithuanian communist party, welcomed the appearance of a

new party calling the socialists "dear comrades." The socialists held their congress at the LDDP headquarters in Vilnius.

People aged between 30 and 50 with secondary education made up a greater part of the delegates, who reportedly represented 429 party members. Workers make up the nucleus of the new party, which also has several farmers and jobless people among its members.

Ex-Official Claims U.S. Prevented 1992 Shipment

WS2903121394 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 22 Mar 94 No. 55 p 1

[Article by Virginijus Gaivenis: "The Lost Millions"]

[Excerpts] Under the 18 May 1992 resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the former Supreme Council Security Department received $870,000 to supply the Volunteer National Defense Service with defense and technological facilities not produced in Lithuania. After the Prosecutor General's Office had expressed interest in the utilization of this sum, officials from the State Inspection Department carried out an inspection and submitted their conclusions in late January. Thus, it turned out that the government headed by G. Vagnorius had allocated $870,000 to the Security Department, while the acquired special purpose facilities (arms, ammunition, bulletproof jackets, and so on) were worth only $393,705. Inspectors failed to establish where the remaining $476,295 had gone, because they did not find any documents in the former Security Department and banks justifying the utilization of the residual sum.

The Lithuanian Bank Department of Hard Currency Operations transferred the entire $870,000 to the account of the London-based firm "Ligistics [as published] Development Inc" in the Bank Hapoalim back on 26 May 1992. The current Lithuanian Bank leadership also confirms this fact. However, none of the leaders of this bank or the Security Department dared provide information about the size of the remaining sum in the firm's account, because the very contract for the purchase of all these special facilities is missing. According to state inspectors, the current government must establish the total of the unused residue allocated to the Supreme Council Security Department and retrieve it. This opinion is also shared by the Lithuanian Prosecutor General's Office which sent a letter to the prime minister immediately after receiving the conclusions of the State Inspection Department, requesting him to render assistance and authorize the Lithuanian Bank to examine the actual situation. Recently, the Prosecutor General's Office received a reply from Prime Minister A. Slezevicius which reads that "executing the government decision of 3 February 1994, the Lithuanian Bank reports that it failed to acquire any additional information concerning the utilization of the $870,000 which the Government of Lithuania allocated to the Supreme Council Security Department and later transferred to the account of the London-based firm "Ligistics Development Inc." in the Bank Hapoalim, and the residue money. A. Slezevicius maintains that due to the negligence of the requirements for accounts of material assets, book-keeping, and balance accounts, the Republic of Lithuania incurred a $476,295 loss. [passage omitted]

Some sources maintain that A. Skucas, former chief of the Supreme Council Security Department, recently paid a visit to the Prosecutor General's Office and tried to persuade it that the total of $870,000 had been spent to buy special facilities in the United States. However, the U.S. State Department and special services banned the shipment of arms to Lithuania because the country allegedly did not want to impair its relations with Russia....

Independent Media Claim Laws Violate Constitution

WS2903083694 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 23 Mar 94 No. 56 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Mass Media and Politics"]

[Text] On Monday [21 March], members of the Association of Independent Radio and Television Stations met with representatives of opposition parties in the Seimas [parliament]. Association President G. Babravicius explained his claims to the government and requested the lawmakers' intercession. Leaders of radio and television stations are not content with the fact that the Seimas has deprived the electronic mass media of the right to privatize the facilities they have leased thus far. They also stated that the government resolution on licensing telecommunication activities runs counter to the law on enterprises. "The government's actions violate the Constitution which states that the mass media cannot be monopolized," said Radio Center leader R. Pleikys. Independent radio and television stations are also dissatisfied with the ban on air commercials on holidays and memorial days—such a flaw is incorporated in the draft law on the mass media.

"The conflict between independent radio and television stations and the government is almost free of a political tinge," claimed Association President G. Babravicius. However, the representatives of the opposition firmly diverted the conversation to political issues. According to G. Vagnorius, chairman of the Homeland Union Executive Council, "one must often look for political motives behind economic difficulties as well." Seimas deputies proposed that a decision should be adopted on whether to apply political or technical measures. Journalists maintained, however, that the press, which is seeking the status of a fourth power, will never find a common language with the first two. "We have no illusions that a change in the parties in power will entail a change in their attitude toward the mass media. First of all, we need a compilation of rules," stated the representatives of radio and television looking for an intercession.